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The onset of the Viet Nam War brought about a concentrated effort by the U.S. Military to research and develop state of the art, improvised munitions and associated technology. While some of this effort was finalized and made available to our military "advisors", a large amount was never made available before the political degenerates leading our country totally undermined its military efforts.

Fortunately, most of these developments were recorded on 35mm color slides. These have been reproduced into lesson-sized groups. The first two sets contain 22 slides each, accompanied by written text that fully describes what is shown in the slides. They are packaged in attractive 8½ x 11 binders which keep both slides and text handy for instant reference.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTES

AS you SOFers might assume, we're proud as punch about our Coup in Afghanistan. Galen Geer, "our man in Afghanistan," provided an in-depth briefing to Rep. William Dickinson (R-Ala.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Rep. Dickinson was quoted by *The Boston Globe* as saying, "It's a very real concern to me if, as it seems, our intelligence community has been unable to gather as much information as a free lance like Mr. Geer."

The most important item Geer brought out was a NBC filter from a Russian BMP-2 armored personnel carrier — an item Western intelligence agencies have been trying to obtain for years. Even more important, the filter may contain gas residue which would allow the United States to determine what type of gas the Russians are using.

The Washington Post reporter, who dipped his pen in the ink of yellow journalism in doing a piece on SOF, was so ignorant and/or biased as to refer to the filter as "a gadget" from an APC. But then, what can we expect from *The Washington Post*?

GRAVES NAMED MANAGING EDITOR

I also wish to announce that Jim Graves, who joined our staff in November, has been promoted to Managing Editor. Bob Poos, our former Managing Editor, is on leave of absence.

Graves, who was a Grunt in the Third Marine Division in Vietnam, was a Combat Correspondent during his last year in the Marines and worked on a daily newspaper for 10 years before coming to SOF as an Associate Editor. A history buff, particularly military history, he has a BA and MA in history.

CONVENTION UPDATE

We will have seminars on knife throwing and small-arms disarming techniques. Two six-hour courses will be offered in the above subjects for \$50 each. Don't wait until the last minute for reservations. Come jump and shoot with us!

TAPPEN TO JOIN STAFF

I am delighted to announce that Mel Tappen, formerly the survival editor of *Guns & Ammo*, has joined our staff in the same capacity.

I consider Tappen, an avid shooter, student of weaponry and outdoorsman, to be the top survival consultant in the U.S. He has a Ph.D. from Stanford in English literature and was successful in business before ominous economic trends led him to concentrate on becoming a survival consultant. He now devotes full time to evaluating firearms, outdoor and survival equipment, storable foods and communications devices in order to assist and inform people interested in long-term survival planning.

Tappen's first article will appear in your December SOF.

SOF RAISES PRICE

Increases in printing and production costs have forced SOF to raise its price to \$2.50 on the newsstand and \$24 by subscription in the U.S. This price raise should enable SOF to continue to provide its readers with excellent articles and a quality magazine.

Sincerely,
Robert K. Brown

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Robert K. Brown

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (ISSN 0145-6784/USPS 120-510) is published monthly by Omega Group Limited, 5735 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80303, (303) 449-3750. Controlled Circulation Postage Paid At Denver, CO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DATA FILES INC., 100 So. Uhle St., Arlington, VA 22204. \$20.00 for Twelve-Issue Subscription add \$14.00 — Domestic First Class; \$6.00 — Air Canada & Mexico; \$24.00 — Air Europe & Latin America; \$30.00 — Air All Other Continents. \$5.00 for all Foreign surface mail except Canada & Mexico. Single Issue Price — \$2.25.

CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs, drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, P.O. BOX 693, Boulder, CO 80306, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of SOF. All manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. All photographs should be credited and be accompanied by captions. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication.

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

COVER: Mujahideen warriors stand atop Soviet T-54 tank (second production model) on road to Gardez. Afghans knocked out more than 100 pieces of equipment in that particular battle and SOF's Galen Geer counted a dozen tanks and 30 APCs while he was in that ambush area.

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BULLETIN BOARD

by Jim Graves



Robert K. Brown (left) holds up his "Publisher of the Year" award presented by STATIC LINE Editor Don Lassen on behalf of the Airborne world at the Airborne VIP meeting in Atlanta 26 April. Brown spoke to the Airborne group about unorthodox voting procedures he observed in the Rhodesia elections. Persons interested in obtaining STATIC LINE, the Airborne newsletter, should write: STATIC LINE, Dept. SOF, Box 87518, College Park, GA 30337. A year's subscription costs \$16.

THE SUGGESTION BOX ...

Jeff Cooper sent us the following suggestion:

Consider the African Dung Beetle.

This excellent insect is about the size of an ordinary lemon, cut in half lengthwise. Its abilities are impressive.

1) It is virtually invulnerable to abuse. Its armor is of high-resistance natural plastic, and it can be run over by a truck without damage, if the ground is soft.

2) It is a master of vertical take-off and landing.

3) It can entrench itself in seconds by scooping straight down into the ground.

4) It repairs and maintains itself without outside aid.

5) It is not subject to electrical nor hydraulic breakdown.

6) Its energy intake is modest, and it reproduces itself with minimal labor cost.

7) Its primary activity consists of rolling up balls of manure larger than itself in which it incubates its eggs.

My suggestion is that we breed it for size. Suitably magnified, it would be the ideal mount for air cavalry, and if it were stabled in and around Washington, D.C., it would instinctively take over the handling of government forms, thus freeing most of the federal bureaucracy to allow for more productive work.

RUSSIANS MOVE CLOSER ...

The Soviet Union has hastily constructed an airstrip capable of handling troop-transport planes just 80 miles north of Iran.

The strip, located about 20 miles west of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, could be used by Russian AN-12 troop planes. The build-up in the area includes hundreds of Soviet army trucks, communications equipment and tents.

While it could certainly be used to invade Iran, the sources who brought out the information said they doubted that was the purpose. It is more likely the new strip is meant to increase the

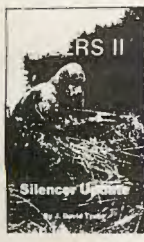
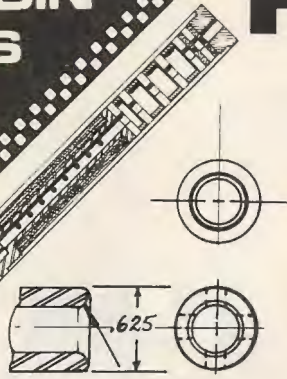
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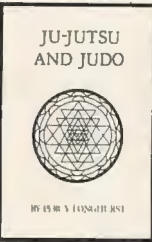
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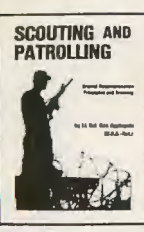


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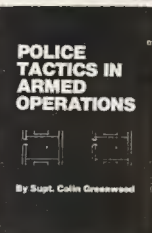


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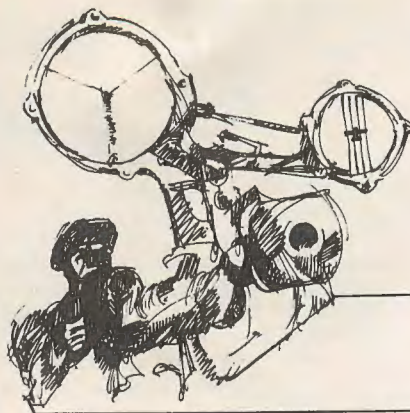
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REMEMBER THE ALAMO AND THE SCHWARS ...

Sirs:

First, I want to compliment Mike Williams for his outstanding article, "Remember the Alamo!" (SOF, July '80). It was a brilliant piece of work. But, Mike, don't sell those Mexicans short. After all, they do have a certain grasp of American politics: "Jou tell that Carter he ain't got no votés from us." I think that certainly says they have more common sense than some Anglos I know. After getting the shaft ever since the Vietnam War, with affirmative action I became a minority — very interesting if you have a twisted mind by nature, and a slight gift for mimicry.

Second, in the same issue, I really have to castigate Managing Editor Bob Poos for failing to get an interview with a "real mercenary recruiter" like Mr. Rudolph Schware. I mean, some of us younger readers would really be interested in finding out about how he recruited mercenaries in the "good old days." In reference to Rudolph Schware, the Supreme Court acted correctly. There is no requirement for a lawyer to have "good moral character." In fact, I feel that any lawyer with "good moral character" is in big trouble in that profession.

Finally, for the attention of Tony Bliss, Jr.: I think he was given a truthful answer by Dr. Robert Schware when asked, "What does a social-economic consultant do?" I feel that Mr. Schware told him the truth when he said, "All that is irrelevant." Think about it, gang.

Ray Lopez
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

COPY DROP CAUGHT ...

Sirs:

Thank you for printing my letter regarding the U.S. service pistol program in your June 1980 "Cuss and Discuss" column. Unfortunately, only one paragraph of my letter was printed at the bottom of a letter labeled "Chuck Taylor Responds" with my name after it (p. 76). Obviously a mistake has occurred in editing or page arrangement.

Sincerely,
Scott McClelland
San Jose, California

Thanks for catching the fact that the conclusion of Chuck Taylor's letter and the beginning of yours were omitted on p. 76 of Cuss & Discuss. To summarize the omitted material, Taylor's final paragraphs urged the U.S. Army to buy Colt's new MK IVs with high-visibility fixed sights and have military armorers do trigger jobs on those guns needing them rather than consider the 9mmP.

Your letter asked four questions of Eglin AFB engineers Robbins and Davis:

1. Has either of them shot anyone or observed a shooting with these 9mm rounds?

2. What attempt was made to factor in actual combat experience with these rounds?

3. What attempt was made to take advantage of experience of people like Jeff Cooper?

4. Were they ordered to select the 9mm or was the .45 given an equal chance?

You further stated that you (1) believed the 9mm was preordained as the winner regardless of performance. The rest of your letter was printed. — The Eds.

MARINE REMEMBERS KHE SANH ...

Sirs:

I wish all this country's young men, who want to run and hide now, could read the story on Khe Sanh. I am a survivor of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines. For 12 years now I have been trying to forget Khe Sanh and Vietnam. I feel bitterness and confusion about that whole mess.

Things happened so fast in those days. I remember running out of ammunition, the never-ending mortar fire and quiet just before they attacked our position. They overran us, but it cost them dearly.

I think we underestimated them. I know I did. In the end, they found out the 9th Marines died hard. Even if it was for nothing.

I wish someone would make a movie about Khe Sanh and the 9th Marines. It would show people how it really was in Vietnam.

Thank you for your article ("Khe Sanh: No Dien Bien Phu," SOF, May '80). It gave me a little bit of pride.

Stephen J. Digor
Denver, Colorado
Continued on page 77

A Tribute To The Largest Pitched Battle in American History: The Battle of the Bulge.

AMERICA FIGHTS BACK!

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The Battle of The Bulge Commemorative Commando Knife with 18-karat gold-on-brass hilt and luxurious blue velvet-covered display case. Shown approximately two-thirds actual size.

To the American Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne: 22 Dec 1944

The fortune of war is changing. U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units... There is but one possible way to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation; that is...surrender... If...rejected, one German Artillery Corps and six huge anti-aircraft battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne...

(Signed) The German Commander

To the German Commander: 22 Dec 1944

NUTS!

(Signed) The American Commander

Note: The German Commander did not understand "...ze meaning of ze...Americano Commander's...reply... 'NOOTS!'" So, an American POW explained, "Sir, this is an American slang word that, in effect, tells you to 'GO TO HELL!'"

It was December, 1944. For the first time since the Revolution, American troops were forced to fight for survival in a winter campaign, against a foreign enemy. Unrelenting rain, sleet, snow, fog, ice, mud, floods and sub-zero weather had bogged down American and Allied forces and prevented vital air support and surveillance.

In a tremendous surprise attack ordered by Hitler, von Rundstedt's 17 divisions with eight additional divisions in reserve drove a 50-mile-wide wedge (or "bulge") between the Allied forces in the north and the south in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg. The unsuspecting American forces were greatly outnumbered and outgunned. Over 8,000 Americans were forced to surrender—more than in any other episode of any other war except Bataan. Bastogne was surrounded—and it looked like more Americans would be taken prisoner soon. All men joined the firing line—including clerks, cooks, truck drivers, repairmen and police.

By splitting the Allied forces, Hitler hoped to be able to force a separate peace on the Americans and the British. But the American, British and Allied forces courageously fought back. Before it was over, more than a million men fought on both sides. Hitler lost his last desperate gamble on the Western Front, and with it 82,000 in dead, wounded and captured, more than 800 tanks and over one thousand planes. American casualties totalled 77,000 of which 19,000 were killed and 21,000 were captured or missing. At least 700 tanks and nearly 600 aircraft were lost.

But now there could be no stopping the Allied push to the Rhineland.

Knife Honors Battle

Now, in the 35th anniversary year of World War II victory, The American Historical Foundation and Wilkinson Sword Limited honor The Battle of The Bulge with the issuance of the same famous World War II Commando Knife carried by many of the heroic American, British and other Allied combat men in that bleak winter of 1944-1945 in the Ardennes.

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- Luxurious 15" rich blue velvet covered display

case, with brass closure clasps and hinges. Fully fitted and lined with blue velvet, white piping and white silk inner lid, gold tooled with commemorative inscription.

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- Copy of General Patton's 680-word "Miraculous Talk With God" requesting good weather and divine guidance to prevent an Allied holocaust. ("...in exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver You enough Krauts to keep Your bookkeepers months behind in their work!")
- The opportunity, without obligation, to add to your collection subsequent limited edition knife issues in this World War II Victory Collection series, with matching registry numbers. These knives, with different spectacular finishes and materials, will honor other major World War II Allied victories.
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE 9

ON THE MARK

Once in a great while, along comes a new concept in guns. Some are novel, but don't quite make it. Yet in spite of all obstacles, the truly great ones find their place. And as time goes by, even the most doubtful among us gain an appreciation for them. And yes, even endorse them in the ultimate way—by owning one. So it is with the CA Mark 45 cal. and the 9mm semi-automatic carbines. Some have been shocked by their appearance, which is not merely cosmetic, but a result of highly practical design which, incidentally, added a great deal to their look of authority. This proved to be a big plus since they were originally designed as a deterrent weapon for law enforcement. They were never intended to be pretty, they were built to be tough—and to keep the cost reasonable. Their performance has proven to be so amazing, they have emerged as one of the most popular deterrent weapons for farmers, remote area dwellers, hunters, collectors, and anyone who has a need for this kind of protection.

If you need more details on the Mark 45 or 9mm, see your dealer or write for Brochure # Q80.

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FULL AUTO

by Bill Farmer



Belgian FN MAG machine gun stripped down.

TO many of us, the letters FN stand out as symbols of distinction and quality in military arms. FN made a name for itself before and after World War II manufacturing Browning rifles and heavy caliber machine guns in air-cooled and water-cooled versions. These weapons were sold around the globe, to Argentina, Greece, Thailand and several other countries as well.

Then came the real breakthrough with the development of the FN MAG, a masterpiece of technology and 20th-century engineering that will be difficult to improve upon. The MAG has an adjustable rate of fire capable of attaining 1,000 rounds per minute, but by making an adjustment of the gas regulator, a lower rate of fire can be accomplished, which in turn will give one some of the characteristics of the BAR (Browning automatic rifle), including more economy in round expenditure, controllability and accuracy.

Closer study of the weapon will reveal its incorporation of an operating system similar to the BAR and the belt-feeding system of the German MG-34 and MG-42. Instead of locking on top of the receiver as does the BAR, the bolt in the MAG locks from the bottom. The quick-change barrel has a chrome-plated and stellite-lined bore and chamber. It may be noted that the early model had a finned barrel reminiscent of the 1928 Thompson SMG, which was phased out in favor of the present smooth-barrel model.

The FN MAG is a general-purpose machine gun that can be used either with a bipod as a light machine gun or with a tripod as a heavy machine gun. In either mode, one important feature is use of either a nondisintegrating push-out-type belt-link of the MG-34 and/or the MG-42 type or of U.S. M-13 disintegrating links. Another outstanding feature is the quick-change barrel, which may be changed by first pressing the barrel lock in the left front of the receiver, then bringing the barrel handle to the left so that it is above the receiver and can be pulled out.

The FN MAG utilizes the 7.62 NATO in most cases, but any rifle cartridge with the base size of the 7.92 Mauser family may be used by changing the barrel to the desired caliber.

All you tankers will be happy to know that it is a simple matter to convert this weapon for armored use. Just remove the butt stock and install the butt plate, then remove the bipod and it's ready for installation. At present the U.S. is testing some 2,000 FN MAGs for possible implementation. As of now there are more than 22 countries armed or being armed with the FN MAG. That should tell us something!

One final thought: even though this is one of the best on the market and probably won't fail, you must remember who is using it — since the human factor may fail.



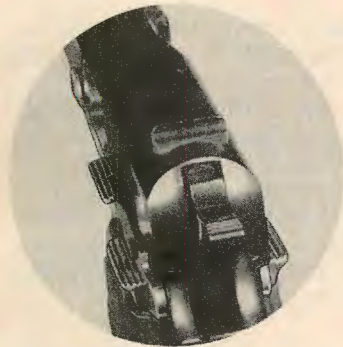
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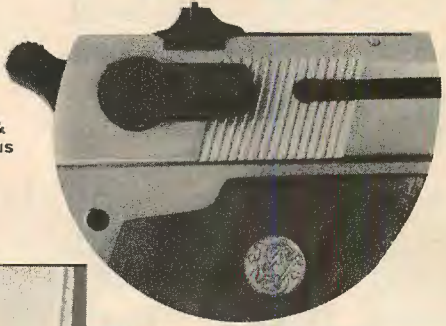


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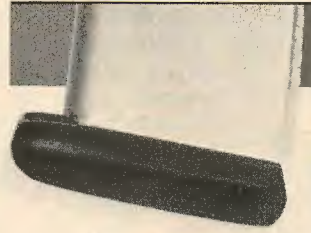
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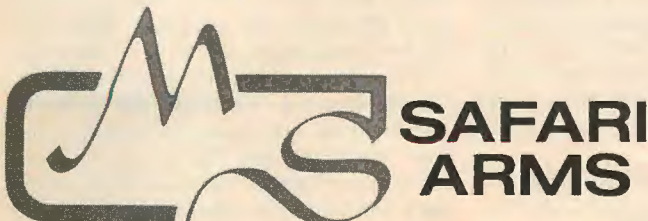
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Terrain & Situation

by Jerry Ahern

MICHAELS Of Oregon — Uncle Mike's — markets several slings useful to both the outdoorsman and the soldier, and therefore of particular interest to many readers here. I recently tried two of their new webbed models and their classic, leather, military-style sling, the latter on my blued Mini-14. Of two-piece construction, its good-quality leather, brass-plated D-ring and frogs give it the classic look. If one has never tried a two-piece military sling before, the useful instruction sheet gives diagrams for threading and adjustment as well as full instructions.

Because of its almost infinite adjustability, this type of sling can be easily loosened for handy carrying, tightened for support while shooting or tightened all the way if the rifle is to be stored in a display rack or a conventional, upright wall-storage rack.

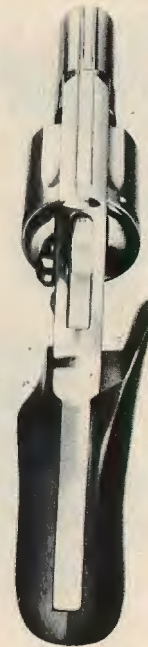
The nylon web slings, in black or brown, the Ultra-model with a Cobra-style widening at the shoulder and the utility style — just a straight strap — are immensely practical. A long version is planned for those who opt for the extra length. Lightweight and tougher than leather, they are built of the same rugged materials used in most backpacking equipment.

Both web slings have blue-steel hardware and are instantly convertible from carrying position to hasty sling. Compact, inexpensive and durable, they are made for standard one-inch sling swivels, while the leather military sling is made for 1- or 1 1/4-inch swivels, as the user desires.

Couple either of these with Michael's QD (Quick, Detachable) sling swivels and one has an efficient package in the field or on the range. The military sling for a plain, one-inch swivel retails at \$8.75. The Utility webbed strap goes for a surprisingly low \$2.95, and the widened Ultra-Web model for only \$7.95. Michaels prefers to sell through its dealers, but if one needs help finding a local dealer, write Michaels Of Oregon, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 13010, Portland, OR 97213.

I've tried the slings and like them — even the leather military model, and I'm inclined to be critical of leather unless it is just right — this one is.

I've spoken here and elsewhere before about the excellent little Barami Hip Grip, but it deserves further mention. Police officers and civilians alike are still falling all over themselves to get snub-nosed .38 Special revolvers for hideout carry. There is certainly nothing wrong with a Chief's, a Dick Special or a Charter Undercover, although a Government Colt, Detonics or Lightweight Commander .45 is probably better.



Colt Detective Special with bobtail hammer and nickel finish is fitted with Barami Hip Grip.

Many of the same people who go for the small, snubby revolvers seemingly go out of their way to find a bulky holster to carry the gun — the resultant package being less concealable than a .45. If one is an outdoorsman, obviously a holstered gun like the Smith & Wesson Model 60 stainless makes a superlative kit gun, with its shot cartridges, etc. But if one wants to carry a two-inch .38 because it is small, then he should take advantage of its size.

Continued on page 64

Special Report

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WORLD AT WAR!

Will the next 4 years bring a MAJOR depression ... and war ... to America?

by Roy S. Wathne
Freelance Reporter

"A MAJOR DEPRESSION, CIVIL turmoil, a dictatorship and gun confiscation may be ahead for America," now warns International Consultant and Survival Expert Hans J. Schneider. Far fetched? NOT AT ALL!

Hans spent his childhood in the Third Reich . . . his boyhood in the rubble of communist-occupied East Germany. His father, a former industrialist, lost \$10 million overnight and was imprisoned. This was a time when thousands of a disarmed populace were ruthlessly murdered. Hans and his family had to search the forests for food in order to survive.

BAD TIMES AHEAD

Don't ignore his warning. Hans J. Schneider is internationally respected for his rather accurate political and economic forecasts.

After twenty years of research, he has reached this conclusion: "America will go through a major depression within the next four years." He foresees **big cities** as centers of bloodshed, food shortages, and massive unemployment. People unable to cope with these conditions, will demand a dictatorial government to restore order, just like they did in his own homeland, Germany. The result? A MAJOR WORLD WAR.

Hans Schneider adds: "Even if all these events don't happen, any one of them could spell disaster to unprepared Americans, physically and financially."

"TIMELY HELP"

Mr. Schneider has written a book which I believe every concerned American should read. **TIMELY AND PROFITABLE HELP FOR TROUBLED AMERICANS** reveals his proven plan for your freedom and survival during economic and social turmoil.

There is hope and help! Mr. Schneider is NOT a prophet of doom. In his book, Hans has outlined what he has done . . . and what you can do to prepare for—even profit from—these times. 288 pages cover:

- ✓ Finding the right place to live in the turbulent times ahead
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- ✓ . . . and much, MUCH more.

Mr. Schneider is not a theorist, but actually "practices what he preaches," as one newspaper reporter put it. Hans, his lovely wife, and their five children live in unspoiled wilderness next to a spring-fed stream, teeming with trout. They produce most of their own food and enjoy a wonderful family life. Is this your dream? His book shows how you can do it too!

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

- * ". . . sincere and engaging . . ."—Art Seidenbaum of *Los Angeles Times*
- * "It is the best book I have read on the subject."—Dr. Marjorie Fry, Editor, Castle Rock, CO.
- * "Book is excellent. Number of my people want copies."—Pastor G. A., Amarillo, TX.
- * "Your book is most appropriate for these days. Runaway inflation and civil disorder is just around the curve."—Dr. John R. Andrews, M.D., Ellijay, GA.
- * "Sympathy and concern for an American populace headed toward what he feels is another period of 'hard times' prompted Hans J. Schneider to write **TIMELY** . . ."—*The Mail Tribune*, Medford, OR.
- * "More people should read it."—S. S., Atlanta, GA.
- * "His book is exceptional not only because it is timely and practical, but because it is based on actual personal experience—it is not a lot of idealistic theorizing or useless Philosophy."—R. A. Johnson, Survival Editor for *Inflation Survival Letter*.

You can order **TIMELY AND PROFITABLE HELP FOR TROUBLED AMERICANS** for just \$9.95 postpaid—certainly one of the best investments you will ever make. And his advice can profit you no matter where you live or what the economic condition may be!

TWO OTHER UNIQUE BOOKS

Mr. Schneider is also the author of 2 other excellent books. His latest, **FLYING TO BE FREE** (256 pages), is his personal never-before-told story of his



Hans J. Schneider believes we are headed for a disastrous social and economic period. But he has practical advice to help you profitably survive this time.

boyhood passion for flying in his communist-occupied homeland, the years he spent on dangerous aviation missions through war-torn Europe and the near-fatal accounts of his travels in almost 100 countries. It is beautifully illustrated with over 110 photos/drawings and a full-color cover.

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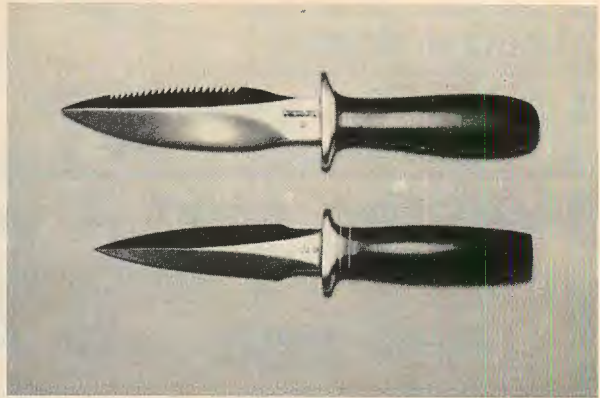
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STEELE ON KNIVES

by David Steele



Special-order boot knives made by Randall (Dept. SOF, Box 1988, Orlando, FL 32802). Both are made from 440C stainless steel with micarta handles and brass guards. Top one has sawteeth for survival purposes.

Send letters meant for this column to author at *Soldier of Fortune*, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. If you desire a personal quick reply, send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Because of the sensitive nature of the subject matter, initials, rather than names of writers, will be used in print, unless requested otherwise.

Q. In your opinion, what are my best choices for a legal folder? By "legal" I mean with a blade less than three inches long and of pocket design. My main concerns are: sufficient blade and joint strength, available grip and ease of opening and closing.

As a member of the U.S. Army I would also like your opinion on a battle knife. Again I ask your advice as to manufacturers and models.

S.F., Ft.

Walton Beach, FL

A. A 3-inch blade is a severe limitation in a defensive knife since lethality is limited to targets on the neck and general bleeding. Four inches of steel is usually necessary to reach the heart. In general, the small lockblade folders made by Buck, Gerber and Al Mar should suit your purpose, with good action, strength and blades less than three inches.

For a battle knife, I would recommend a custom-made clip-point knife with 6- to 8-inch blade of 440C or 154CM steel, with double guard and linen or canvas micarta handle. This style of knife is made by Bo Randall (Dept. SOF, Box 1988, Orlando, FL 32802), Bill Amoureux (Dept. SOF, 2311 Barrow St., Anchorage, AL 99503), Mark Lahrman (Dept. SOF, 341 S. Vine, Indianapolis, IN 46241) and a number of other makers.

Q. I need the address of Kojiro Oda. Is he still with Loveless?

What is your opinion of Jeet Kune Do, as taught by Bruce Lee and Don Inosanto?

A lot of people in our department (Railroad Police) are buying the Buck 4-inch

folding hunter, thinning out the blade on a grinder, rounding the corners to lessen pocket wear and polishing the action to make a pocket fighter. Any comments?

D.M.E.,

Hueytown, Alabama

A. Kojiro (Kuzan) Oda is on his own now, making fine custom knives. His address is: Dept. SOF, Box 9543, Colorado Springs, CO 80932.

JKD is one of the most practical of empty-hand systems. Danny Inosanto, a personal friend and student of Bruce Lee, is one of the few "authorized" teachers of this system. He has a school in Torrance, Calif.

The Buck 110 folding hunter has been used by policemen, bikers and many other people for self-defense. Personally, I prefer a true folding fighter like that made by Bali-Song Inc. (Dept. SOF, 3039 Roswell, Los Angeles, CA 90065).

Q. Please continue the fine column of "Steel on Knives," especially with reference to folding knives. I know that boot and sleeve knives are more rigid, but many of us find a folder much more handy. I work in an inner-city hospital with a six-story parking garage with no patrol protection. Such a place is scary at night, and I carry a folding knife.

T.H.O.,

Columbia, S.C.

A. I agree that a folder is the handiest of defensive knives. I recommend the Bali-Song butterfly knife mentioned above. Also, you may be interested in the Thunderbird or War Lance folding fighters made by Bob Cargill (Dept. SOF, 14401-136th Ave., Lockport, IL 60441). Other fine pocket fighters are made by Howard Viele, Frank Centofante and Wayne Goddard.

Q. I have been reading your column and like the way you present the legal, technical, and social aspects of knife fighting. I have only recently become in-

terested in knife fighting and some dilemmas persist in my mind. I have trouble seeing the advantage of carrying a knife instead of a gun. Legally you need a permit to carry either one concealed. If the punishment for illegal carry were the same, would not the gun be a better weapon for self-defense?

I can carry a .25 auto in my pocket just as easily as a folding Gerber, and I can carry a .380 auto or small revolver in my boot just as easily as the Gerber Mark I. A problem I've noticed in concealing any weapon, however, is an inability to get it out quickly enough. For example, I carry my Gerber Mark I in my boot; in order to get it out I must either bend over or lift the leg and pull up the pantcuff. An aggressor could easily knock me down or beat me to the punch.

V.C.,

Columbus, GA

A. I have never heard of a knife permit. Basically, concealed-weapon permits are a handgun-only proposition, with the possible exception of some tear-gas-pen permits. However, if one is classified as a peace officer, or if he has a pistol permit, the chances are his carrying a knife would not raise any eyebrows. In either case it would be a good idea to carry your badge or ID card at the same time.

I find certain knives, particularly folders, to be far lighter and easier to carry than handguns, especially if one does not have much bulk to conceal it behind. A pistol will usually create a bulge in the pocket or require a holster for concealment. However, even if you have a badge or permit and you don't mind carrying a handgun, there are still good reasons for carrying a knife. The main reason is that the knife is more "cost effective" in terms of "weight penalty": in other words, you can use a knife for utility as well as fighting (try shooting a string

Continued on page 72

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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT



by Jeff Cooper & Ken Hackathorn

SOF's Combat Pistolcraft column welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a question or contribution, send it to Jeff Cooper, c/o SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. For a quick, personal reply, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Q. I presently own a Smith and Wesson 9mm Model 39 handgun. The gun is, in my opinion, well-suited for home and personal defense. However, I am unsure that it is suited to military work, due to the fact there are other handguns with greater magazine capacity.

For this reason, I am considering the purchase of a Model 59 with a magazine capacity of 14-rounds-plus-one, as opposed to the eight-rounds-plus-one capacity of the Model 39.

Tell me which of the two guns you consider best, and which gun you think best as a military sidearm (of all guns being manufactured). Have you any information indicating when the Army will change to the 9mm or any knowledge as to which test model is favored?

J.C.

South Holland, Illinois

A. The magazine capacity of a combat pistol is not really an important concern. Pistol confrontations are over before magazine capacity becomes important — in almost every case. In those other cases, a quick reloading technique will handle the problem. I would say that a big magazine is a mild convenience, except when it comes to the matter of packing the spare around on the belt.

If you wish my opinion on a comparison between the M-39 and M-59, I must say that I do not favor either of these two weapons. In my experience they appear to be insufficiently tough for extended hard service.

When you ask what I consider to be the best military sidearm currently manufactured, I must return, as always, to the 1911 Colt. For a long time, it was the only major-caliber semi-automatic pistol available. At present, there are some others but the Colt retains its edge.

I have no knowledge as to when or whether the U.S. Defense Dept. intends to change calibers. After having changed from .308 to .223 they are now a bit reluctant to make fools of themselves a second time.

Q. My curiosity is aroused — what is the British army now using as their official sidearm? Also, how many armies around the world are using the Browning Hi-Power 9mm Parabellum as their official sidearm? I am inquisitive because I am the proud owner of a Browning 9mm P.

Lastly, there are rumors that the U.S. Army is discontinuing the Colt .45 ACP and switching to the 9mm Parabellum. What truth is there to the rumor, and what would they change over to in the 9mm P?

J.C.

Natal, South Africa

A. As far as I know, the British are still using the P35 Browning as an official sidearm. These things have a way of changing, however, and I may not be fully up-to-date.

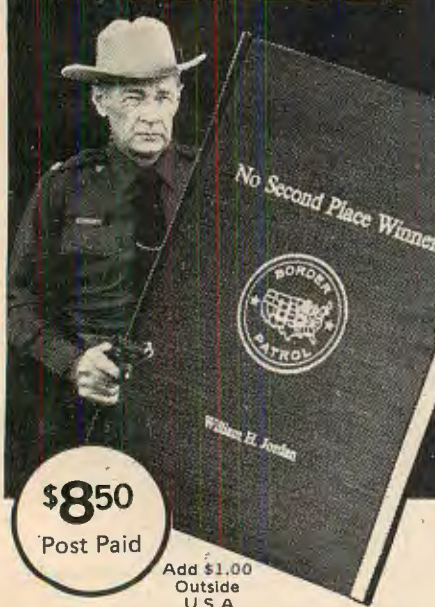
As of this date, the U.S. Air Force is conducting experiments regarding personal sidearms. What will come of this hardly anyone knows, but in view of the fact that we already have a good weapon, and that it costs money to change over — I do not expect any startling developments in the immediate future. Rumors of the adoption of the Parabellum cartridge by the U.S. Defense Dept. were responsible for the introduction of the S&W M-39 many years ago, and nothing has come of that yet.

The trouble with the U.S. military establishment is not so much its equipment as its people. When one has lost the will to fight it hardly matters what instrument he has to fight with.

Q. I have noticed many of your readers are still arguing about .38 vs .45 with respect to stopping power, and felt a recent incident in Hong Kong would interest some of your "experts."

Continued on page 73

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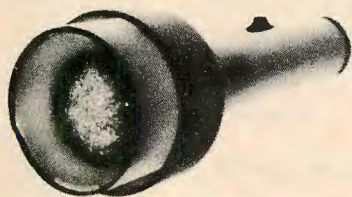
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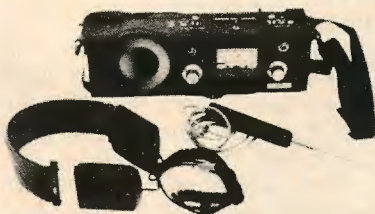
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Continued from page 6

Soviet Union's ability to bring forces into Afghanistan quickly. It is also possible the Russians are worried that the Kurdish rebellion against the Tehran regime could lap over into Azerbaijan.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN ...

Distance does appear to make a considerable difference.

When in Paris, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, although not universally loved, was generally respected.

Not so today. The left, right and minority ethnic groups in Iran have learned he is a difficult man to have around. One of the clearest signs that Khomeini and his mullahs (priests) are in trouble with the people is the emergence of a clandestine radio station called the Free Voice of Iran (FVI).

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"The revolution ruined everyone except the mullahs. They all drive around in Mercedes-Benz cars and their pockets are full of Iran's money."

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Khomeini and his stooges — his bloodsuckers — opened the prison gates, set free all the thieves, smugglers, ruffians and murderers, and then hired them as revolutionary guards."

"The people's rage shall stifle you one day, O phony priest Khomeini. You have gone one step beyond the shah. You have even gone one step beyond Hitler."

"When I open my door," said one man, "all I see are mullahs in Mercedes. We say we are hungry and they say 'Be patient, Khomeini eats only bread and tea.' Well, if that were the only food the old hyena ate he would have gone to hell long ago."



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION ...

For those of you who were fortunate enough to make it, and crazy enough to take it, you might be interested to know that there is a Special Operations Association.

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SOF EDITOR WINS PROMOTION ...

SOF Contributing Editor for Military Affairs Alexander McColl was recently promoted to full colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, where he is the director of instruction of the Special Forces Satellite School. This is the Army Reserve "Mobilization Designee" counterpart to the active Army SF School. In May and June 1980, in this capacity, McColl spent 2½ weeks at Camp Shelby, Miss., training National Guard SF personnel from the 20th SF Group (NG SF from Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Mary-

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It Happened To Me

by Charles S. Lamb Sr.
as told to M.L. Jones

Charles S. Lamb Sr., 83, was a private in Battery F, 56th Field Artillery, 1st Army Division, on France's battlefields during World War I. He served as a lanyard puller on tractor-drawn 155mm GPFs and mule-drawn caissons. As he tells it:

DURING the Meuse-Argonne campaign of August 1918, the front saw-sawed back and forth with enemy artillery hitting targets of opportunity in the rear areas. We were under gas attack when I tripped over the trail end of our gun, breaking out my gas mask's eye lens. My lungs were burning from mustard gas before I could push a handkerchief into the opening. I was rushed by ambulance to a field hospital in the rear.

After a five-day treatment and before I returned to my outfit, a buddy, Bill (Brownie) Brown, offered to give me a much-needed shave. Brownie came from New London, Conn., and served in Headquarters Battery. I perched myself on a pile of ammo boxes and he started to shave me.

I watched an ambulance drive up to the hospital, unload its wounded and pick up soldiers who had recovered enough to return to their outfits. It started up and moved slowly toward us.

Suddenly, a German shell landed on top of the moving vehicle and blew it to bits, killing all occupants.

Before Brownie and I could react, a piece of hot shrapnel hit him in the left cheek of his buttocks. He jerked the razor up the side of my face. I couldn't ask for another Purple Heart for my face injuries — I had already received one for the gas attack — but Brownie got his for a sore rear end.

If he hadn't offered to shave me, I probably would have been in that ambulance, since I had been told to take the next mode of transportation back to my outfit.

After the Armistice of 11 November 1918, Brownie would never say exactly where he was wounded — even in the haven of VFW Posts; and you can bet I have never told anyone until now. Since he passed away a few years back, I can now tell of his giving a piece of ass beyond the call of duty.

After several months on the island, his unit was forced to supplement its guard post watches during the dark hours with regular patrols, which, on more than one occasion, encountered Cuban infiltrators on the American side of the fence. It became an almost nightly occurrence for Cubans to cross the "No-Man's Land" of mine fields to taunt Marine sentries in the manner described below. As he tells it:

AFTER three months at Guantanamo Bay, my platoon had already fallen into guard duty's monotonous routine. Sentries were posted at 2330, and they were settling in for their four-hour hitch of maintaining fenceline security next to the mine fields that separated this small patch of freedom from communist Cuba.

I was sitting at my desk in the guard shack with the corporal of the guard and the duty officer, going over the next day's duty roster when I heard the PRC-25 radio crackle.

I walked over to the radio and picked up the hand set. As I put it to my ear, it crackled again, but this time I heard a whisper coming through it.

"Bulldog, bulldog, this is Papa One-three. Over." I recognized L/Cpl. Gonzalez's voice. "I have a squad of Cubans about 20 meters in front of my position. They are moving toward me along the bank of the river." Post 13 was located on the banks of the Guantanamo River at the only break in the fenceline.

I immediately ordered the corporal of the guard to awaken the reaction force and sent the duty driver outside to start the jeep. After notifying the officer of the day (OD) of the situation, I grabbed my M16, put on my helmet, shoved a couple of full magazines into my pocket and jumped into the jeep. The driver tore out of the company area, raking through the gears to gain more speed.

We raced past the posts near the company area as we tore along the fenceline road. The sentries had been alerted and were standing in their bunkers searching the fenceline with loaded and locked rifles. Soon we came to the salt flats area — a main infiltration trouble spot. Aware of a possible ambush, I slapped a magazine into my weapon and flipped the selector switch to auto, and the driver jammed the accelerator to the floor.

We skidded into Post 12. The sentry told us he had seen some movement by Post 13 about five minutes before. After the driver put a magazine into his rifle and laid it across his lap, we tore off once more. Soon we left the salt flats and entered the thick, dark jungle of small trees and bushes that surrounded Post 13.

At the post, I jumped out of the jeep and ran in a crouch toward the bunker. Diving inside, I rolled over beside Gonzalez who was aiming at a point on the other side of the fence. I looked outside and saw the driver using the jeep's hood for cover and aiming at the same area.

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I Was There

by Edward E. Vaught
as told to M.L. Jones

From September 1975 to February 1976, Edward E. Vaught served as a sergeant in the Special Mission Force 2075, A Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division. His unit was assigned to provide security for the perimeter of the leeward side of Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba.

As Gonzalez began to fill me in, I heard a loud clang outside the bunker. When I looked at the jeep, I saw the driver sitting next to it, inspecting a new dent in his helmet.

"What happened?" I yelled.

"Those bastards are throwing rocks at us!" he shouted.

I rolled back over next to Gonzalez just as a half-dozen large rocks fell on the bunker's corrugated tin roof. I checked the sandbags to make sure no Cubans were slipping over the fence. I saw nothing but shadows.

"Keep your eyes open, Gonzalez," I said, and ran out to the jeep to slide down beside the driver. Just then, a new barrage of rocks dropped on us.

"I'll be damned if we're going to sit here and let them bounce rocks off our heads," I told the driver. "Start collecting ammo," I yelled to him and Gonzalez.

The three of us searched for throwing rocks and when we had collected several dozen large ones with sharp edges, we prepared our attack. We slung our rifles, fastened our chin straps and divided our "ammo" supply.

Holding our rocks in one arm, we dodged one last shower of Cuban stones. That was our signal.

Jumping up, we ran toward the fence-line, yelling and pitching rocks into communist Cuba. We maintained our attack for five minutes, reloading with fresh supplies from the ground.

I hefted my last large, ragged rock and threw it over the fence with enough speed to put Terry Bradshaw to shame. Seconds later we were rewarded by a dull thud followed by a low moan. No more Cuban stones fell on our side of the fence that night. We'd taught the Cubans what America's enemies have learned from Guadalcanal to Khe Sanh: no matter what weapon an enemy may decide to use, be it tanks, rifles or rocks, the Marine Corps is truly the world's finest fighting force.



If you have a combat or adventure story for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, Att: M.L. Jones. All stories should be 500 words or less. Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all publication rights. Submitted articles are subject to editing and revision, although their content and theme will not be changed. Photos are also helpful. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can notify you of acceptance or return of your story. Article payment is \$50, upon publication. All entrants will receive an SOF patch.

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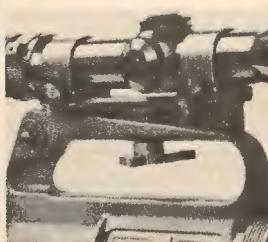


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Continued from page 20

land). Further details will be reported in an article in a future issue of SOF.

McColl will also shortly be publishing *Valley of Peril*, a short novel based on his experiences as a District/Sub-sector senior adviser in Vietnam.

1980 IHMSA INTERNATIONALS ...

The International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association will hold its International Championships 6-11 October in Reading, Mass.

The IHMSA is hoping to draw over a thousand of the world's best long-distance handgun experts to the event. The target range at Camp Curtis Guild will have over 200 silhouette targets, electronic firing controls and computerized statistical systems. Over \$15,000 worth of merchandise and awards will be on the line. Those interested should write to: 1980 IHMSA Internationals, P.O. Box 53, Medford, MA 02155.

LATIN AMERICAN NEWSLETTER ...

Ariel Remos (P.O. Box 650459, Miami, FL 33165) sent us the first two copies of *Focus On Latin America*, a newsletter he edits focusing on the political situation in Latin America. Remos claims that, while it is impossible to disguise or deny communist penetration in Latin America,

the news is so fragmented, it belies how serious the threat is. Remos believes the coming months will be critical for the area, which he refers to as the "patio" of the U.S. His intention is to keep his readers informed on the rapidly developing and highly dangerous situation.

MORE WAR IN CAMBODIA ...

Long-suffering Cambodia appears to be headed for more of the same.

In June, Pol Pot guerrillas, who were assumed incapable of launching a serious offensive, struck out all over the country attacking isolated military outposts, blowing up bridges, ambushing truck convoys and trains.

Estimates place the Pol Pot forces at around 40,000, while the Vietnamese have at least 200,000 troops in Cambodia. However, the Vietnamese control the roads only during the day and the Pol Pot Khmer Rouge forces have struck even in the major cities. Two motorcycle-mounted rebels sprayed the Vietnamese and Soviet embassies with machine-gun fire and killed two Vietnamese guards on 21 May.

In an attempt to allow the Khmer Rouge forces neither safe sanctuary nor staging points, the Vietnamese moved across the Thai border into Thailand on 23 June.

In 1975, when the Pol Pot-led Khmer Rouge moved into power in

Phnom Penh, Cambodia had a population of 7 to 9 million people. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates Cambodia's population at 4.8 million today. Depending on which estimate you take, and adding in the raw birth rate of 10 per every 1,000, that means between 2.5 and 4.6 million persons have died in Cambodia during the last five years. While the vast majority of those deaths were due directly to famine, war and disease, the Khmer Rouge genocide programs and general policies are the underlying causes.

It goes against our grain, but we wish the Viets success against Pol Pot. Cambodia does not need to suffer that regime again.

KEEP THEM OUT ...

United Press International has reported that despite Carter's claim that all incoming Iranians undergo close scrutiny from Customs and Immigration the actual policy is far different. Since the embassy was seized on 4 November, more than 11,000 Iranians have been admitted to the United States.

And there have been some very suspicious persons allowed to enter the country.

A directive issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in November warned, "There are alleged to be about 50 Iranian students at-

Continued on page 79

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DID CARTER LOSE HIS NERVE?

by Cincinnatus Osborne

NUMEROUS questions remain unanswered concerning the aborted attempt last April to rescue the American hostages in Iran. In the usual manner of politicians trying to cover up their mistakes and failures, the Carter administration is invoking "national security" to justify keeping the facts from the American people. Further, and one would have been happier if the same degree of cleverness had been applied to the planning and conduct of the operation itself, there seems to be a concerted campaign to move the blame for this disaster away from the President.

The cover-up began the morning after the raid. In his initial statement, Carter stated that he had made the decision to abort the mission; by 11:30 a.m., when Defense Secretary Brown met the press, the "official" version asked us to believe that the decision to abort "had been made" (note the responsibility-avoiding passive voice) "in the Pentagon." Since then, various colonels and generals involved in the raid have obediently taken on themselves pieces of the responsibility, and the whole thing has been given an appearance of unavoidable bad luck compounded by many small mistakes by subordinate officers and officials. We are in effect invited to award the President a degree of approval for ordering the raid, and our sympathy for the run of bad luck that defeated it.

Whatever else, Jimmy Carter is an extremely adept political animal, and this is an election year; the fact that over 50 Americans are still being held in total illegality in Iran (assuming that some of them haven't yet been killed) is something he would just as soon we didn't think about.

Another aspect of the cover-up is the baffling array of officially instigated "leaks," rumors and assorted other "disinformation" that has come into the public domain, with the result that just about everyone who has been trying to follow the matter has become thoroughly confused and has given up. Could it be that the President is hoping people will lose interest in and forget something that has been made so confusing?

One could make a long, detailed analysis of Presidential errors of judgment in the Iranian matter and elsewhere, but to what end? Proving that Jimmy Carter is unfit for the role of Commander-in-Chief is about as difficult or necessary as proving that Elizabeth Ray isn't a virgin.

There is, however, one matter of critical importance about which some very interesting facts have come to light. In the initial announcements, we were told that the raid was called off because

mechanical failures had reduced the number of operational helicopters to five, while six were the minimum required to do the job. President Carter himself told us this and, after all, he promised that he would never lie to us.

Of course, this explanation did raise a nagging question: how was it possible for this operation to be a "lead-pipe cinch" with six operational helicopters, but totally unworkable with five? The obvious conclusion was that the President, while exercising tactical command of a very tricky and complicated combat operation from about 8,000 miles away, simply lost his nerve — understandable, considering his limited professional military qualifications and his performance in other areas.

WHAT really happened may be worse. The following items came from sources of good, but not unimpeachable, reliability: first, British intelligence has a tap into the Presidential "hot line" between the White House and the Kremlin; second, the hot line was in use the night of the raid; third, the Soviets uttered dire threats commanding Carter to get his raiding force out of Iran. In response to this, the Head of State of the greatest nation on earth meekly backed down and ran away, and in such haste that five undamaged choppers and a mass of highly classified papers were left behind, as well as the bodies of the eight U.S. servicemen killed during the getaway. Of course, given the state of the Armed Forces resulting from the last several years of defense budget-cutting and general running down the military, this might have seemed to that valiant soul the only prudent course, even as when he backed down in front of the Soviets over their combat brigade in Cuba a few months ago.

But the "bottom line" is that the President is simply a yellow coward who lacks the nerve to stand fast in a crisis, and was lying through his teeth when he told us his little story about mechanical trouble with the helicopters being the reason for calling off the raid in such haste.

At least when Teddy Kennedy lost his nerve at Chappaquiddick no hostages or other major national interests were at stake, and only one person died as a result. Carter's score is eight, plus however many of the cooperating Iranians were compromised as a result of leaving the papers behind, plus the 53 hostages, plus a lot of other things.

Will we end up with four more years of this sort of "leadership"?

See also "It's Your Move," page 84.

Vest Saves Portland Policeman SHOT IN THE HEART



by Loren W. Christensen

IT was still dark outside the window as he finished writing the three-page suicide letter. Leaning his six-foot-four, 240 pounds back against the chair, he sucked deeply from his cigarette and stared at his reflection in the black window. Outside the fifth floor of the Holiday Inn motel, Portland's scattered lights grew faint as an early morning fog sped down from the mountains.

After a few moments, he scooted the chair back, stood and crushed his cigarette into the overflowing ashtray. Scanning the letter for the umpteenth time, he nodded his head frequently in silent approval.

"...I'm 20 years old and I don't see any real future for me ... the world today is all fucked up ... there are a lot of things I would like to do with my life, but I can't do them ..." He snorted, looked out the window and let the letter drop from his hand onto the desk top.

He looked out the window for a long time. Trembling hands lit another cigarette; small beads of sweat appeared on his forehead. He glanced over to the bed and then out the window again. The first hint of dawn streaked across the eastern sky.

It was time.

He lifted the heavy, olive-green parka from the bed and slipped it on. The ammunition lay in a neat row on the bed: 10 boxes of Blazer .22 caliber long rifle, one box of Winchester Wildcat .22 caliber and a box of Winchester 30-30 rounds. He placed all of it in his pockets and adjusted



the parka on his shoulders to more comfortably accommodate the additional weight.

The rifles lay next to the pillow. He reached first for the Ruger Model 10, .22 caliber carbine and then the Winchester Model 94, 30-30. They were as good if not better than the weapons he had shot expert with in the Air Force.

He opened the door and peered into the hallway. It was empty. With the rifles cradled in his arms, he half ran and half walked toward the door marked:

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The early morning fog had lifted and

joined the thick, grey, overcast sky. It was chilly, but not bad for a November morning in Portland. At 7:30 a.m., rush hour traffic was deep into battle.

"What say we take one more lap around the district and then get some caffeine?" Officer Morley Fletcher said, as he maneuvered the blue-and-white police car through the crush.

Officer Barry Cook was jotting something in his notebook. "Sounds O.K. to me. There's not much sense being in this mess if we don't have to." He brushed the blond hair off his forehead and glanced at the heavy traffic on the myriad of bridges spanning the Willamette River. Unconsciously, he shrugged his shoulders to adjust the Kevlar protective vest under his



Photo: Ralph B. Perry

**LEFT:
Sniper
surrenders
to Portland
SERT team
after two-
hour siege.**

**LOWER
LEFT:
Officer
Barry Cook
in hospital
(note bruise
on chest).**

Where was the guy? He glanced at the 10-story Travel Lodge motel but quickly ruled it out — too far east. Then, for one gut-wrenching moment, he thought the guy might be on the building directly above him. He was breathing hard as if he had just run a mile. If someone were shooting around here, traffic should be stopped or rerouted.

The Holiday Inn. Maybe the shots came from the Holiday Inn.

He heard the shot.

As he leaned out from the corner to look toward the motel, he heard a shot. Time stopped. "It's for me," he thought, "It's for me." And then a bullet smashed into his chest.

For a brief moment his world was without motion, without sound. Freeze frame. Then, a tremendous force pushed him backwards in slow motion. Looking down, he saw his tie and shirt slowly lifting; there was a jagged hole in the shirt front! He was floating downward now, his body turning slowly, ever so slowly, until his chest crashed heavily onto the sidewalk and his head dropped into the gutter.

His eyes were seeing another time, years ago when he was a little boy at the beach. He could hear sea gulls crying overhead as he dug the hole deeper and deeper in the sand. Mommy and Daddy would really be surprised how deep the hole was.

It was over his head now and the tide was coming in. He continued to dig deeper and deeper until the first wave roared in and half-filled the hole. The little boy screamed and clawed at the walls of crumbling sand. Overhead, the sea gulls screeched and flapped, fighting over a piece of dead fish.

As the little boy dissolved, Cook felt the cold, hard pavement against his face and heard a zinging sound as bullets bounced off the sidewalk near him. A white Volkswagen drove by and it appeared as if the driver's head had grown to fill the entire car; his mouth gaped dumbly at the wounded officer. No one stopped to help. Somehow Cook was on his feet and staggering along the building. Distorted sounds screamed in his head, grew faint and then screamed again. There was no color, only grey. He saw Fletcher crouched behind some shrubbery looking toward the Holiday Inn. He started to call his name but the earth suddenly tilted and he thudded to the sidewalk.

There was a woman's voice, and hands pulling at his shirt. Now there were more voices, but he couldn't see the people; he wanted to see people so badly. The grey was gone but everything was in penciled outline: buildings, trees, cars.

Where were the people?

"He's been shot," a voice said.

He heard the words. Without thought or emotion, he pulled the portable radio from his belt and spoke in gasps: "Six-20

shirt. He was wearing it as part of a 12-month police-bureau trial.

The two officers worked the seven-to-three shift in the predominantly black community of north Portland. Fletcher had been with the bureau 11 years and Cook, a veteran of 18 months in Vietnam, four years.

Fletcher braked to let a car pull out of the Holiday Inn parking lot. This section of their district consisted of restaurants and motels that fed off the thousands that jammed the Memorial Coliseum almost nightly.

On the west side of the Holiday Inn, traffic thinned for a moment but immediately jammed again on the south end as streets branched onto the freeway. Fletcher guided the vehicle around the end of the motel and then proceeded back along its east side. He angled across the three lanes and turned east on Weidler Street.

With the Holiday Inn behind them, they crossed the freeway overpass and began slowing for a red light. Fletcher rhythmically tapped on the steering wheel as Cook closed his notebook and slipped the pen into his shirt pocket.

Three Shots

There were three rapid shots followed by a slight vibration in the police car.

"We're being shot at!" Fletcher shouted.

For a brief moment of confusion they looked about, trying to determine the

direction of the shots. Fletcher yanked the steering wheel hard to the left and stomped on the throttle.

"This is Six-20," Cook shouted into the mike. "We're receiving fire at Weidler and Victoria."

Smoke swirled from the spinning tires as the police car screeched around a building and slid to a stop in a large parking lot. The officers scrambled from the vehicle and stood awkwardly, looking in all directions. They had a skin-crawling sensation of being watched — but from where? Where should they take cover? Then they saw the holes in the rear of the car. There were at least three: two in the trunk and one under the rear window.

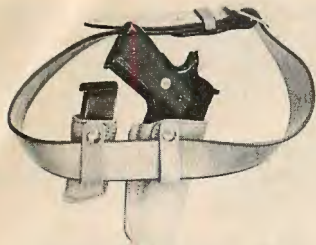
The shots had to have come from the west.

Prompted by a feeling of exposure, the officers ran toward the building. Fletcher covered the northwest corner and Cook ran along the east side to the south corner close to where their car had been hit.

Traffic flowed by and a few curious motorists glanced over at Cook as he leaned against the east side of the building. If the shot came from a car, he might as well be in a rubber raft surrounded by circling sharks. To his front, Weidler Street traffic flowed heavily and to his side, Victoria Street was lined with cars stopped for a light. Behind him, Broadway Avenue was choked with commuters and to the west, Interstate 5 roared. Beyond the freeway loomed the Holiday Inn, and further, the Memorial Coliseum.

His heart was banging against his chest.

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... I've been hit ... in the chest ... I need ... an ambulance..."

There was loneliness. A deep, dark, aching loneliness. He knew he was going to die and he felt so very alone. He wanted his wife, his kids. Where were the people? Then, just as suddenly as it came, the loneliness was gone, replaced by an intense warmth of well-being. There was no more pain, no more stress — he was ready to die.

Fletcher turned—and froze.

Fletcher was unaware his partner had been shot. He was standing at the northwest corner of the building looking westward as he heard several shots fired. Deciding to rejoin his partner, he ran along the north side of the building and around the corner.

He froze.

Cook was lying on his back and talking into his radio. There were several people standing and kneeling around him.

"He's been shot," one of them said.

Fletcher spoke rapidly into his radio, asking if an ambulance had been ordered. Dispatch replied a Buck Ambulance was en route. "Good," Fletcher thought, as he kneeled beside his partner. "The closest Buck was only two blocks away."

The wailing siren approached quickly and the ambulance pulled onto the lot. But the nightmare continued. Several rapid shots riddled the side of the ambulance and blew out a rear tire. The attendants bailed from the disabled vehicle and ran crouching toward the fallen officer.

Another ambulance was ordered.

Cook still could not see people. He was not aware of Fletcher's presence or the wailing sirens of the approaching police cars and ambulance. Hands continued to push and probe him.

A voice said, "Man, this vest saved your life." He was lifted and placed on a stretcher. The ambulance was moving now, but why wasn't there a siren? As his vision began to return, he could see an attendant speaking into a telephone. He was telling someone they were bringing in an officer who had been shot in the chest.

Apprehensively, Cook slowly reached down and felt his chest. The uniform shirt was opened and his vest loosened. There was a large hole in the vest.

But wait. There was something else. Imbedded in the nylon threads, directly over his heart, was a piece of metal. A slug. The slug was in the vest, not in his heart. In the vest.

He was going to live!

Two-hour Siege

While Cook was being rushed to the hospital, the sniper continued to fire at Portlanders from the roof of the Holiday Inn. For nearly two hours after the officer was shot, dozens of people were pinned

down, vehicles struck and windows of businesses blown out.

Although the police officer was the only person hit, there were many stories that occurred as the sniper fired more than 70 rounds at anything that moved.

One block from where Cook had been hit, a service station attendant heard shots and saw the officer fall. He began calling passing pedestrians into his station to take cover. Later, as he ran out to shut off his pumps, the sniper fired at him and several rounds bounced off the concrete near his feet.

A bicyclist pedaling near the Memorial Coliseum heard a shot and saw gravel kick up by his feet. Thinking it was a car backfiring, he continued riding, enjoying the brisk morning.

A pilot flying a traffic watch plane at 3,000 feet over the area heard a few shots pass by his plane. He was unaware the popping noise was a sniper until informed by his radio. He then warned the airway's traffic control center at Portland International Airport to divert aircraft out of the area.

Police Response

As the sniper continued to fire intermittently, nearly 100 police officers poured into the area. Several officers took up positions on the fifth floor of the Holiday Inn to prevent escape from the roof through the inside of the motel. Fire escapes were kept under surveillance by officers positioned on other nearby roofs.

All streets, freeways and bridges were sealed off and pedestrians ordered under cover. An eerie silence hung in the air over the empty, motionless streets. With random targets eliminated, the sniper's rate of fire decreased.

Two blocks away, the Portland Police Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) positioned themselves on the roof of the Travel Lodge motel. A SERT rifleman fired to keep the sniper pinned down while other officers took positions on the roof of the Holiday Inn.

Once the police were in position, they spoke to the sniper through a bullhorn. They told him to wave if he could hear them. Below on the street, hundreds of people hiding behind cars and buildings saw the man wave his arm.

He was told to drop his weapons or he would be shot. He dropped the rifles on the roof, took off his parka and held his hands up.

Slowly the officers approached him. The young man who had shot at police, motorists, pedestrians and controlled a major section of Portland, now stared at the barrels of police revolvers and shotguns. He was ordered onto his stomach and he was handcuffed.

It was over.

Continued on page 76

OPERATION ASSASSINATION



by George Gordon

AN astonishing plan by Rhodesia's military chiefs to assassinate the top echelon of guerrilla leaders has emerged since Robert Mugabe's landslide victory.

Scattered whites in the army, police and civil service did everything in their power to destroy evidence of their plans and activities as Rhodesia became Zimbabwe.

Shredders and incinerators operated night and day as tons of documents ranging from sanctions-busting secrets to the inside story of covert military operations were obliterated. But some survived.

Among them were details of the assassination plan — the most explosive and embarrassing of them all.

As late as June 1979, while the build-up to the Lancaster House talks and the Commonwealth conference were under way, the military still wanted to kill the guerrilla leaders.

A Chuckle That Almost Cost Nkomo His Life

Top of the list was Joshua Nkomo, whose guerrillas had downed two civilian Viscount aircraft. When Nkomo claimed responsibility in a broadcast, horrified Rhodesians heard him chuckle over the slaughter. It was a chuckle which could have cost him his life.

The military think tank was considering the disastrous failure of Bishop Muzorewa's amnesty plan for guerrillas and suggesting courses of action.

They recommended: "An attempt should be made to take out the top echelon of the terrors [terrorists], e.g. Nkomo, Mugabe, Josiah Tongogara and Rex Nhongo. This would seriously affect terr morale and throw them into disarray. Obviously this is easier said than done,

but should always be part of the aim."

Unknown to the authors of the report at that time, "Operation Assassination" had already been planned in detail and the first attempt had been made. The clandestine attack had carried the war into the heart of the Zambian capital of Lusaka.

Rounding Up The Hit Team

The orders to kill Joshua Nkomo were given to the country's elite SAS unit — a unit comprising 110 men, the majority of whom had been trained by the SAS in Britain and then retired to enlist in Salisbury.

While the Rhodesian Selous Scouts got most of the publicity and the glamour image, it was in fact the SAS which was the rebel colony's hardest-hitting force.

It was in early April that 25 of the SAS's most experienced men were called in and assembled on the banks of Lake Kariba. The location was an isolated peninsula not far from the huge dam which supplies the bulk of both Zambia's and Zimbabwe's hydro-electric power.

They arrived in Land Rovers with a massive array of armament, including mounted Browning machine guns. The following day a delivery van negotiated the winding dirt track to the camp. Inside were more than two dozen Zambian military uniforms complete with helmets and webbing. Cans of spray paint were also part of the delivery, and in the course of a few days, seven Land Rovers were converted to Zambian camouflage.

The final recruit was the Kariba ferryboat owner. Like every other Rhodesian white, he was subject to military call up. One night, after discharging the last of the dwindling tourist trade, the owner received

a visit from the officers.

"You have been called up," he was told, "and when you report, bring your boat."

He was reminded of the Official Secrets Act, which he was still subject to, and handed the map references of the SAS camp.

His final instruction was: "Don't bring your African boatmen."

On 10 April, the ferryboat chugged out of the resort town and vanished behind one of the lush tropical islands which dot the lake. Over the next two days a team of engineers rehearsed from dawn to dusk the loading and unloading of the Land Rovers.

By 12 April, the death of Joshua Nkomo had been planned to the last detail. Air surveys, detailed street maps and photographs of his home were in the hands of the assassination team.

In the late afternoon, a Rhodesian police spotter plane cruised low over the lake, crossed the international boundary and photographed a disused track leading from the side of a peninsula and winding through the Zambian bush.

At this point Nkomo was the only missing factor. The guerrilla leader was, according to Rhodesian intelligence, due back in Lusaka on 12 April, but a network of spies in Lusaka reported that he was still away. Their information was that he was in the Tanzanian capital of Dar-es-Salaam consulting with President Julius Nyerere.

Off For Lusaka

On 14 April, a radio signal reached the SAS band — Nkomo had landed at Lusaka Airport. By noon the Kariba ferry had been loaded. Bundles of rope and

Rhodesian SAS Just Misses Nkomo in Zambia

lengths of canvas were used to obscure the cargo. On board, the SAS team played cards, smoked and watched the lengthening shadows across the lake.

At 5 p.m. the ferryboat cast off and chugged gently up the lake into the setting sun. Just short of Bumi Hills it turned, cruised down the international boundary line and then headed for the Zambian shore.

It was the expedition's make-or-break point. One shot, one shout of alarm would have terminated the operation.

The boat edged into the lee of the peninsula and anchored in the shadows. One by one the Land Rovers were brought ashore. A radio signal was sent to the base camp and in total darkness the seven vehicles moved off.

Approaching Along An Almost Impassable Road

Nkomo was scheduled to die at 1 a.m., and speed was essential. The convoy had to approach the main Lusaka road from the west. Military intelligence had revealed that the direct road from Chirundu was crawling with Zambian army units. There were road blocks and check points. The gamble was that by coming in high up they would pass unhindered.

The track proved almost impassable. Fallen trees, thick undergrowth and boulders barred the way. Large sections had been washed away by tropical downpours.

In the sweltering heat of the Zambesi valley the SAS men with blackened faces sweated and winched their vehicles forward. One Land Rover had to be abandoned.

When the party finally reached the outskirts of Chango village they were two hours behind schedule. The convoy sped up and headed northwest towards Mazabuka. Headlights were switched on, and short of Mazabuka the convoy hit the junction which would lead them to the Lusaka road.

The main concern was Kafue and the one narrow bridge which spanned the Kafue River. Two Zambian units were stationed either side of it; an ack-ack and a light-infantry regiment. The convoy rolled through the sleeping town and one rifle-carrying soldier gave a lazy salute to the lead vehicle. The bridge was unguarded.

At 2:40 a.m. the six vehicles reached the outskirts of sleeping Lusaka. They roared through the broad, well-lit and largely deserted streets, swept through Independence Avenue and wove through the sleeping suburbs to United Nations Avenue and then on to Chisidza Crescent and Brentwood Road.

On their left were the British High Commission residences and a few hundred yards farther on to the right was the heavily guarded State House, residence of President Kenneth Kaunda.

Nkomo's home, formerly the Zambian prime minister's residence, lay at the apex of a triangle straddling the plot between President's Lane and Nyerere Road. The convoy split to approach the green-roofed bungalow from both sides.

The building was surrounded by a high wire fence which was draped with sacking for security purposes. Beyond the sacking the SAS men could see faint lights from inside the house.

Battering Down The Front Gate

At 3 a.m. the attack was launched. A Land Rover with a mounted machine gun rammed the main gate in Nyerere Road. The screaming of the engine and the smash of metal woke two guards dozing on Nkomo's veranda.

For the first time in the carefully prepared plan of action the SAS discovered that their basic information was wrong. The gate, which should have been padlocked, was closed with a massive steel chain. It sustained the Land Rover's charge.

Fire poured out from the guards on the veranda. One of them died in a return volley from the machine gun. The Land Rover reversed back and hurtled into the double gate.

This time the chain snapped. The gates were torn from their hinges and the first attack vehicle was inside the grounds. By then, heavy small-arms fire was pouring from the lounge windows.

Shots were also coming from the lawn in front of the house. Unknown to the SAS men, a ZIPRA unit had bedded down on the lawn in sleeping bags and bedrolls.

By then the full SAS team was in position. Two Land Rovers were on the

Nyerere side of the house and two more were on the President's Lane side.

The carefully-worked-out arcs of fire were ringing the bungalow; no one could move in or out and live through the curtain of automatic fire.

Only the fringe activities were hampering the operation. A stream of bullets poured suddenly from one of three servants' huts behind the SAS men. The shattering blast of two hand grenades lobbed through the window ended the fire.

From Nkomo's prized rockery a machine gun opened up with tracer rounds causing the first SAS casualty. The soldier sending magazine after magazine of bullets through the lounge window was suddenly catapulted across the lawn. The weapon was apparently being fired with the butt jammed into the earth.

When the wounded SAS man started to return the fire he watched arc after arc of tracer ripping through the sacking on the fence. Within minutes it was blazing furiously, bathing the battle scene in an eerie red glow. Fire was still pouring from the bungalow windows and there was a second SAS casualty on the President's Lane side.

In Go The RPGs

The ZIPRA men in the lounge were now firing more effectively at the attacking force. The SAS employed one of the guerrilla's favorite weapons — used against countless Rhodesian farms — an RPG rocket.

It zipped through the shreds of glass still clinging to the broken frame of the lounge windows and exploded with a massive crump against the interior wall. A second rocket went in through the bedroom and the two main centers of fire were silenced. In the orders from the Salisbury Command, no one was to be left alive inside the bungalow. The SAS proceeded to carry out the instructions with ruthless efficiency.

In the tree-lined streets around the battle ground, lights had gone on in bedrooms. Startled residents, including the British High Commission staff, could hear the screams of the wounded.

Inside the bungalow, a white core of flame was roaring through the roof from somewhere near the center of the structure. Shrapnel had hit either a gas main or

gas cylinders. SAS men advanced across the lawn clutching four-pound fragmentation bombs.

Shots were still zipping through the trees, but as far as the attackers could tell they were coming from President Kaunda's guards inside the grounds of State House.

The bombs were lobbed through the windows and exploded in an almost continuous roar, blasting away roof tiles and showering the SAS men with debris.

Searching For Nkomo's Body

Inside nothing lived. The bungalow was a skeleton with the remains of a roof supported by the exterior walls. The SAS men moved in and searched the ruin.

Bodies were turned over and documents collected from smashed filing cabinets, but there was no sign of the unmistakable 280-pound frame of Joshua Nkomo.

"They got the bloody information wrong," commented one of the searchers. Three whistle blasts were heard over the rattle of the burning timber and the Rhodesians pulled out.

Two vehicles had already left for target number two on the agenda — Liberty House, the headquarters of ZIPRA and other African guerrilla groups. Four vehicles linked up 200 yards from the bungalow at the junction of Ngumbo Road. There one of the Land Rovers sputtered to a halt.

Behind them shots were still being fired. A small saloon car pulled up outside the burning bungalow. Two women started screaming and the car abruptly U-turned and raced off past the Lusaka golf course.

One of the SAS men lifted the bonnet of the stalled Land Rover and looked down on the smashed remnants of fuel and water pipes. The vehicle was unloaded, despite the uproar coming from farther down the road, and was blown up. The increased noise from the bungalow was later attributed to the emergence of a gang of guerrillas who were sleeping in one of the other servant huts when the attack took place. After it was over they poured out, ditching their weapons and fleeing for safety up President's Lane.

Racing For Safety

The three-vehicle convoy raced to Liberty House near Libila School. There the attack was well under way. SAS men had slipped in past dozing guards, planted charges and then had been spotted on the way out. As the Nkomo team drew up, massive explosions could be heard, followed by heavy small-arms fire.

With dawn less than an hour away, the third target had to be abandoned. It was the main Government store, housing thousands of weapons which were finding their way into guerrilla hands. The plan had been to blow it up along with two

petrol dumps on either side.

The attack force raced for Kafue Bridge — the only exit. They hit the bridge at 70 miles an hour, determined to shoot their way through any opposition. In the pale dawn light a solitary sentry waved them through.

As the sun came up the SAS men were on the track leading up to the shores of Kariba. Three of the team had been wounded. Back in Lusaka spotter planes were sweeping the districts. Road blocks ringed the city and dozens of Europeans were rounded up for questioning.

To this day, the Zambian military have no clear idea of how the operation was carried out. The most popular theory was that the attackers had come in by air.

On the bumpy track to the lake the convoy stopped to spare the injured further pain. A helicopter raced across the lake and lifted them to the hospital.

Farther down the track, two army mechanics stood beside the Land Rover which had been abandoned. It was in full working order. The Kariba ferry made one more race across the lake, and by 9 a.m. the task force was home.

The mission had struck a devastating blow at the guerrillas, but the main objective had not been achieved. In Lusaka, Nkomo admitted he wasn't in the bungalow, but he did say, "I think they wanted to kidnap me." Later he changed his story and claimed he crawled out of a lavatory window and escaped.

The SAS knew differently. No one had crawled anywhere. No one inside the bungalow had survived.

In Salisbury the Rhodesian Supreme Military Commander, Lt. Gen. Peter Walls, who had approved the operation, called a press conference. Asked if the plan was to kill Nkomo, he replied eva-

sively: "Our record shows that if we had wanted to kill Nkomo we would have done so."

Other Attempts?

In the final days of white rule, Robert Mugabe escaped death by seconds when a bomb exploded behind a car taking him to the Fort Victoria Airport. The bomb was detonated by the touching of two wires. A police helicopter was on the scene within three minutes but there were no arrests.

After Mugabe's victory, Gen. Walls, so long the backbone and hero of the fighting whites, was given the coldest reception of his career by both the Selous Scouts and the SAS. "Of course we blame the general," said one of the embittered soldiers. "We understood that Mugabe would never live to see the votes counted."

The third name on the military death list was Josiah Tongogara, Mugabe's military commander. He died in a car crash shortly after the Lancaster House agreement was signed.

Amid mounting suspicions regarding the circumstances, a Salisbury mortician was flown to Mozambique. His report was that the military commander had died of a broken neck. A length of car bumper had also penetrated his chest.

The final name on the list was Tongogara's deputy, Rex Nhongo. Today he works alongside Gen. Walls, deeply involved in the integration of the once warring armies.

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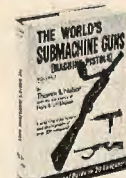
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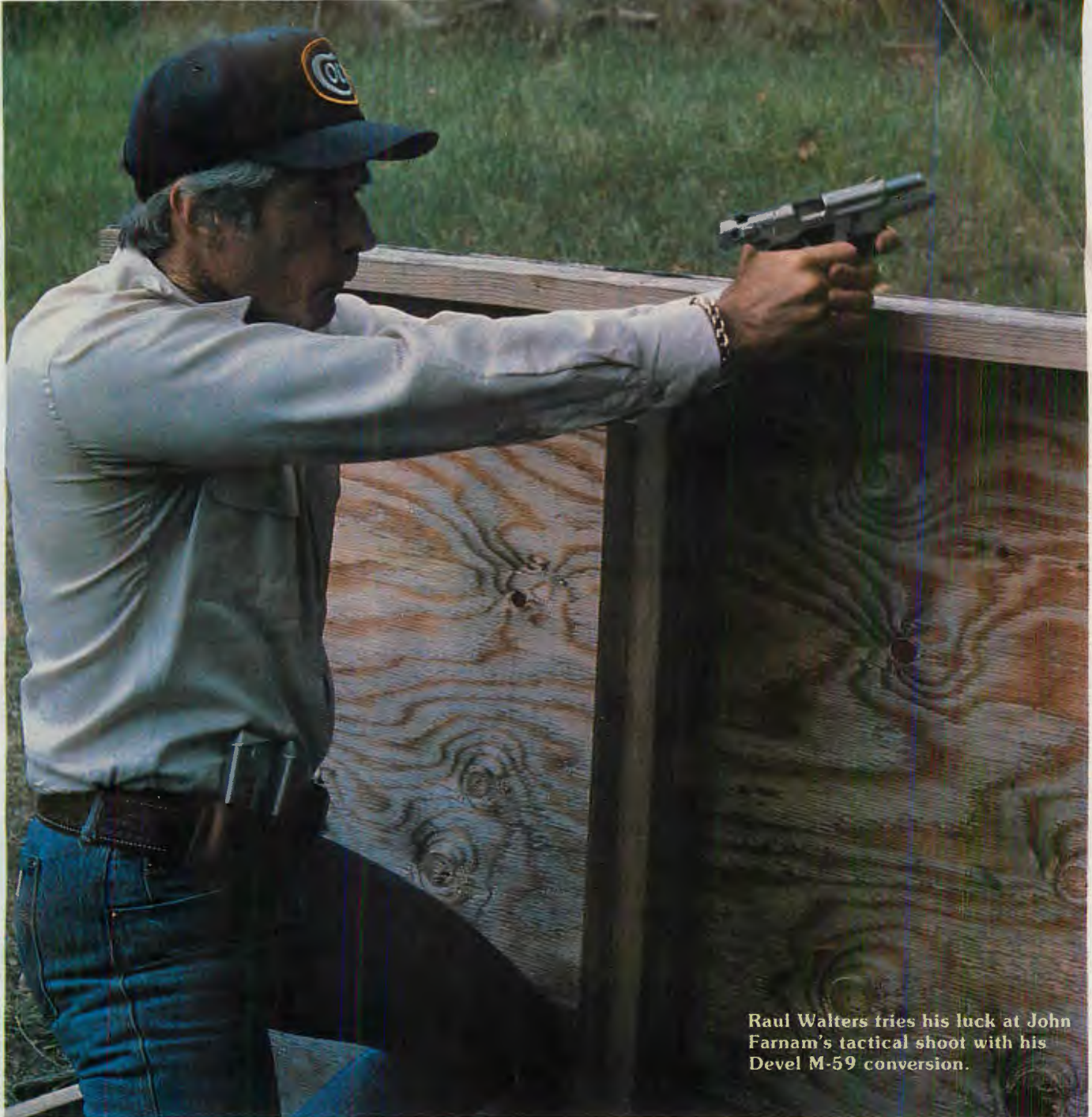
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Raul Walters tries his luck at John Farnam's tactical shoot with his Devel M-59 conversion.

BIANCHI CUP MATCH

by Ken Hackathorn

ONE of the new faces at the Bianchi Cup Invitational this year was not a face at all. Gone was the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) silhouette target, replaced by a new headless target introduced by Ray Chapman and dubbed R2D2 by the contestants, due to its tombstone shape, reminiscent of the *Star Wars* favorite.

The new design, aimed at placating those who object to shooting at humanoid targets, gave rise to few complaints among the privileged participants because they

realized that the "Cup" is not a practical match — neither by design nor application. A strictly dynamic shooting event, more diversified and challenging than either the National Rifle Association (NRA) Bull's-eye or the stylized Practical Pistol Course (PPC) game, the Bianchi Cup is special, and precision shooting is the name of the game.

John Bianchi and his staff are to be congratulated on this year's outstanding shooting events, the courses of fire receiving nothing but praise from the by-invitation-only shooters. The quality atmosphere and first-class range facilities were provided by the Ray Chapman Academy Range in Columbia, Mo. — a lavish set-

up compared to what is normally encountered on private shooting ranges. The organization, administration, accommodations and entertainment were all top-notch.

The same four courses of fire were shot this year as in the 1979 tournament. It does not concern Chapman or Bianchi that this trend might lead to specialization in guns and gear; in fact, they would prefer to see the event become a specialized game with a following of only top-level competitors. Bianchi wants to promote sport pistol shooting as a big-money sporting event such as golf or tennis. If it could be recognized as such, with the accompanying media and public interest, he



Last year's Bianchi Cup winner Ron Lerch with his six-inch Hoag longslide. Lerch finished ninth overall in the '80 match.

feels it would enhance the sporting aspects of handguns in our society.

John Bianchi puts his money where his mouth is, as evidenced by the time and money donated by the Bianchi Company. Thanks to Bianchi's capable sponsorship, the firearms industry supported this event with the most impressive list of prizes and awards for any handgun competition to date. This is a clear sign of their approval of John Bianchi's goals. Those of us in the pistol-shooting community should be most appreciative of the donors, sponsors and supporters of the Bianchi Cup.

A strong attempt is being made to interest the NRA in supporting the tournament. Among NRA staff members present to observe and oversee were Harlon Carter, the keynote speaker; Col. Charles Askins and his son Bill; and G.W. "Elliot" Ness, who was in charge of the scoring and target operations, and is well-known in NRA shooting circles as a top official in competition scoring and tournament record division — a strong showing of interest for a fledgling event.

Regardless of shooting-discipline backgrounds, precision was the ultimate objective of each competitor. A rundown of the four individual matches is as follows:

Match One

The Practical Match consisted of a total of 48 shots fired at 10, 15, 25 and 50 yards. From the 10-yard line each contestant fired one round at each of two targets in three seconds. Starting position for this and two of the other matches was hand shoulder-high. On the second signal, the shooter shot twice at each target in four seconds. Then on the third signal, he fired three rounds on each target with the weak hand only in eight seconds. At the 15-, 25- and 50-yard positions, these basic combinations were repeated, except the weak-hand stage was shot only at the 10-yard

line. Times were increased slightly as the ranges increased.

Top shooters in this match had to pay careful attention to the front sight, and most of those that shot well in this event went prone at both the 25- and 50-yard line. Southern California champion shooter Mickey Fowler won the 1980 Practical Match with a score of 476-28X. Match One was sponsored by *Gun World Magazine* and, for his fine performance, Fowler won a trophy and \$500.

Match Two

The Barricade Match was highly favored by the Police PPC crowd. This match required the contestant to shoot at a target from the right side of a barricade six times in six seconds from the 10-yard line. This was then repeated from the opposite side of the barricade at another target. Shooters moved back to 15, 25,

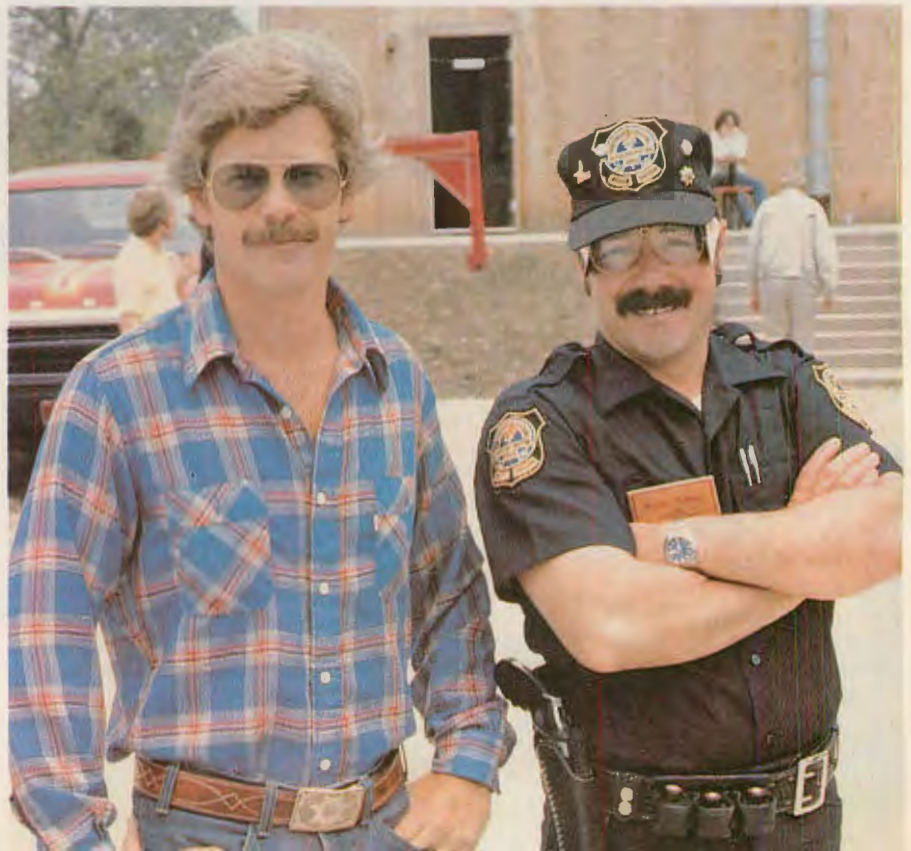
and 35 yards to repeat the sequence with one second added for each increase in distance.

Most competitors found the right side easy, but lost valuable points from the left side of the barricade. Last year's third place overall winner Mike Murray, of Upper Arlington, Ohio, shot the Barricade Match down two points for a 478-34X. For his excellence, Murray took home a silver punch set and \$500, provided by the Barricade Match sponsor, *Guns & Ammo Magazine*.

Match Three

The Moving Target Match, one of the more interesting events to watch, was sponsored by the *American Handgunner*.

The big guns. Mickey Fowler (left) won Matches 1 and 3 while Mike Murray (right) won Matches 2 and 4.



This year's winner came as no surprise. Fowler proved that the training and practice he and his friends from the famous Southwest Pistol League put in on the moving target really pays off. For his winning score of 467-24X in this event, Fowler won a Devel Corp.-modified custom .45 Colt auto as well as \$500.

Match Four

Called the Falling Plates, and nicknamed the "fatal" plates by many of the contestants, this match consisted of shooting 48 round metal plates, each eight inches in diameter. Two strings of six shots were fired from distances of 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards. At 10 yards the time for six shots was six seconds. Each increase in firing position added one second's time; thus at 25 yards contestants had nine seconds to hit six plates.

Clearly, for most shooters this was the heartbreaker. You knocked the plate over to get ten points. If it remained standing you got zero. To be honest, it seemed easy to change your focus to the plates instead of the front sight. At close range you didn't see how you could miss. But, oh, was it easy to miss! If you missed the eight-inch ring on the regular targets by a fraction of an inch, all you lost was two points.

On the plates, such a shot would cost you 10 points. That really hurt many good shooters. I would say that most of those that made it into the top 30 positions did so because they were good on the plates. Murray won the Falling Plate Match; he shot 48 times and knocked over 48 plates, getting a perfect score of 480. He is the only person to do it to date. For his cool skill and calm manner, Sturm, Ruger & Co., sponsor of this event, presented him with a custom revolver and a Gold Kruggerrand.

Each match consisted of 48 shots with a possible total of 480 points. The total possible score was 1920 points. This year's winner had a total of 1879-85X. Most observers could guess who he would be — and they were not surprised.

Bianchi Winners

Fowler, the 1979 U.S. IPSC champion, was the man that everyone watched in the 1980 Bianchi Cup. He shot like a professional and redeemed himself from last year's second-place finish. For Fowler's smooth performance he took home \$3,000, the Bianchi Cup Silver Trophy, a custom silver-and-gold trophy buckle and a S&W M-629 stainless-steel .44 magnum.

Second place overall was taken by a score of 1851-47X shot by Connecticut State Trooper Dave Bates. Bates was a fourth place finisher in the 1979 "Cup," and had certainly prepared himself for the events. As one of New England's top PPC shooters, his skill at precision shooting gave testimony to the control necessary to get in the winner's circle.



John Bianchi (left) presents 1980 Bianchi Cup to Mickey Fowler.

Second-place prize money of \$1,500, plus awards and the *Soldier of Fortune* prize of a H&K 7.62 M91 rifle and P9 pistol valued at \$1,200 was good reason for Bates to be pleased with his performance.

Third-place winner was Colorado PPC shooter Paul Jones. Jones took home \$1,000, a limited-edition Ruger revolver set and other prizes.

Tom Campbell was fourth, shooting his favorite experimental "Supergun," a special combination Model 52-59 9mm auto. Mark Duncan took fifth place and John Shaw sixth. Gavin Carson of South Africa finished seventh. Eighth place was taken by Craig Wood of Vermont, and last year's Bianchi Cup champion Ron Lerch, of California, ended up in ninth place. Dennis Sundermeyer of Michigan came in tenth. Of the top 10 finishers, five were from the IPSC discipline and five from PPC's ranks.

The ladies' event was won by South African IPSC shooter Edith Almeida. Almeida finished well ahead of many of the men, and few male contestants would dispute her skill with a .45 auto. Second-

place lady, Casey Considine, and third place, Heidi Lippmeier, both from the Cincinnati, Ohio area, shot Colt .45 autos.

Shooting Times Magazine sponsored the International Event of 37 overseas contestants out of a total of 196 shooters. Those nations represented were Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, South Africa, Austria, France, Switzerland, Guam and Rhodesia. The top international shooter was South Africa's Gavin Carson. He is well known to those who follow the IPSC circuit. His skill in any pistol-shooting discipline is excellent. Using a borrowed pistol and gear, Carson came in seventh place overall, won the first place international plaque, \$1,000 and a H&K .308 rifle and scope.

Second place in the International Event went to Peter Kressibucher of Switzerland, who shot a beautiful custom Sig 210 9mm auto. Andre Botes of South Africa was the third-place finisher. The conduct of the foreign guests was superb and gave the Bianchi Cup a representation of some of the finest people in the pistol-shooting game.



Overall champion Mickey Fowler recovers from recoil of his Hoag Custom six-inch longslide in 25-yard moving-target match.

It has become clear that choosing custom handguns is the general rule for this Bianchi Cup series of courses of fire. While a few stock Gold Cups were used, few if any of the better shooters shot anything but expensive custom handguns. All wheelgun shooters relied on custom PPC revolvers, with Ron Powers' work being most popular. Auto pistols used by top-level contestants were examples of the big-name pistolsmiths' best work. Although smiths such as Clark, Swensen, Pachmayr and Wilson had their guns in the top 20 positions, majority choice was the longslide Colt .45 auto by gunsmith Jim Hoag. This year's "Cup" champion Mickey Fowler used a six-inch Hoag, as did last year's winner Ron Lerch. Anyone who is serious about competing in future Bianchi Cup Matches, should consider a

good custom PPC revolver or longslide auto.

The Chapman Academy range was made available to various manufacturers and pistolsmiths for their displays. Austin and Frank Behlert provided on-the-spot gun repair, as well as a complete line of their custom-pistol work. Colt, Smith & Wesson, Ruger and Heckler & Koch all set up displays, and Devel, Bill Wilson, Dick Crawford, Richard Heine and Armand Swenson showed off their wares.

John Farnam set up his excellent training exercise for those shooters who wished to try it for fun. Farnam provided pointers and explained tactics. Many top gamesman shooters tried Farnam's shooting drill which proved they would be committing suicide in a real-life fight. Hitting

the target was no problem, but using simple defensive tactics was out of the question.

Leather goods used in the 1980 Bianchi Cup strongly favored the Bianchi line. This is due to the strong effort of Dick Nickols and the Bianchi Leathersgoods staff to provide holsters that meet the demand of shooters. Custom makers such as Gordon Davis and Milt Sparks still set the pace, but Bianchi has used their ideas and combined them to create good business.

The .38 special rounds used by PPC revolver shooters in the 1980 event were pretty evenly split between factory SWC ball and reloads of 158-grain SWC on top of 3.5 grains of Bull's-eye. The .45 auto shooters favored a 200-grain H&G No. 68 SWC bullet loaded on top of 4.2 grains of Bull's-eye. All shooters received prizes, and the list of money and prizes is the largest ever awarded in any pistol-shooting event. Next year's Bianchi Cup promises to be even bigger. Those interested in attending the 1981 event should write: Bianchi Cup Invitational Pistol Tournament, Dept. SOF, 100 Calle Cortez, Temecula, CA 92390, for details.

1980 BIANCHI CUP

Winner

Match One	Mickey Fowler
Match Two	Mike Murray
Match Three	Mickey Fowler
Match Four	Mike Murray

International Event

1. Gavin Carson	1821-73X
2. Peter Kressibucher	1744-41X
3. Andre Botas	1718-42X
4. Sidney Thorne	1694-17X

Ladies' Event

1. Edith Almeida	1604-31X
2. Casey Considine	1211-21X
3. Heidi Lippmeier	1120-14X

Overall

1. Mickey Fowler	1879-85X
2. David Bates	1851-47X
3. Paul Jones	1835-58X
4. Tom Campbell	1827-61X
5. Mark Duncan	1826-54X
6. John Shaw	1825-63X
7. Gavin Carson	1821-73X
8. Craig Wood	1821-62X
9. Ron Lerch	1821-62X
10. Dennis Sundermeyer	1817-68X
11. Chris Dawn	1812-53X
12. Mike Dalton	1804-62X
13. Jim Baynes	1794-64X
14. Charles Grabbath	1792-52X
15. William Norton	1789-44X
16. Bill Wilson	1780-72X
17. Dan Scott	1774-37X
18. Ross Seyfried	1772-59X
19. Wayne Bowker	1772-51X
20. Mike Murray	1768-54X



CIRCLE OF STEALTH

Echanis' Revolutionary Sentry Removal Technique



by Randy Wanner

I first met the late Mike Echanis when he was writing his series of books, three of which have been published (see box). At that time I participated in several training experiments with him in order to test theories and techniques which still needed refinement.

Sentry removal greatly interested Echanis and some of his material has already been published by SOF (see "Sentry Removal," September, November '77, January '78). These photo essays were to be included in a section of one of the six still-unpublished books he was working on before his death. This section on sentry removal classifies the material according to the individual problem faced. Classifications include no-body contact, use of

suppressed firearms, crossbows, throwing knives, etc., and removal of several targets in a confined space. When sentry removal requires both absolute silence and body contact, it becomes necessary to overcome several problems.

First, one must have specific knowledge about the objective. Careful observation of the approach areas and the target — always important in sentry removal — becomes doubly necessary with body contact. One should know the answers to the following questions:

- 1) Is the sentry right- or left-handed?
- 2) From which direction do the largest volume and most different kinds of sounds reach him?
- 3) Is he wearing heavy or light clothing?

4) To which direction does the sentry pay most attention?

5) When does he eat and sleep?

6) Over what type of surface will the final approach be made?

Important Answers

Echanis knew that a right-handed sentry reacts more quickly and accurately to a surprise attack with his right hand and, given a choice, turns clockwise (presenting his right hand first) to face an attack from the rear. Final target approach should be made, if possible, from the direction of the largest volume of sound. The second-best approach is from a direction producing erratic, different kinds of sounds; here



Walls with vertical lines should be passed in an upright position.



At first contact, crossgrab right-rear quarter of target's head and jerk

the attacker approaches in an erratic, patternless fashion. If a sentry generally focuses his attention on one area, approach him 180 degrees from that area.

Echanis realized that, directly after eating, the body requires more energy for digestion, and a sentry is less attentive, slower to react and less sensitive to subconscious input. He knew a sentry who goes on duty directly after sleep requires up to 30 minutes for good visual acuity. A sentry whose normal sleeping time comes directly at duty's end is mentally preparing himself for sleep and is less sensitive and alert.

Pay particular attention to camouflage requirements of the final-approach area. Walls with vertical lines or shadows should be passed in an upright position, horizontal lines or shadows in a stomach crawl. Areas of noisy surfacing such as cinders or gravel may have to be skirted if background sound will not cover the approach.

These detailed observations are relevant to the two major problems in removing a sentry with hand-to-hand combat techniques, the first of which is covering the last three to five feet to the target. The second is elimination of the target silently and with the least visual disturbance possible.

Sixth-Sense Awareness

Echanis observed both in training and live operations that most failures occurred in the approach's last few feet — and for no obvious reason. The target, suddenly nervous and vaguely uncomfortable, would usually turn toward the direction of

the attack. In our training exercises a common factor in these failures became apparent to both of us. A "sixth sense" was involved — projection on the part of the attacker and reception by the target.

Now we were getting into an area on which both of us had been working independently for some time: application of mind-control practices to combat. Our approach to and the results of our experimentation with applied mind control were remarkably similar. Observe several systems that teach and use various forms of mind control, strip them of ritual and dogma, distill what's left into the basics and forge a simple practical system from the results.

The first correction in technique we tried was something Echanis had already been playing with. The attacker momentarily halts forward progress just outside that three- to five-foot range, mentally and physically prepares himself to close the gap "in the form of a tiger," and then closes the gap in a totally concentrated, lightning-quick strike.

This correction produced better results but did not improve the success rate enough, because the speed and straight line of attack did not allow for any changes in covering the last five feet. If the target moved even slightly, failures occurred. Secondly, the momentum generated in this "lightning charge" limited the variety of techniques that could be used and usually created more visual disturbance, making risk of detection by other sentries more probable. Third, even though the time expended to close the gap was short, the target invariably tensed or started to react prior to contact — even

when the approach was made in absolute silence or had heavy background noise to cover it.

Wedge-of-Steel Feeling

After testing this approach on ourselves and on other willing — and unwilling — subjects, we noticed identical sensations just prior to contact. It felt as though a wedge of steel was flying blade-end first to the back of the neck. After working to increase our ability to feel these projections, we could sense this easily, and we assumed that most targets would "feel" this projection subconsciously and that their subconscious awareness would cause a conscious physical reaction.

To further test our conclusion, we went back to a more conventional sentry-stalking approach, the "creep-up-slowly-and-silently-to-body-contact" technique. We found this produced a feeling that slowly "washed or oozed" over the upper body, particularly the neck. The problem with this approach, as mentioned earlier, was that the long interval required to close the last five feet gave the target enough time to translate subconscious awareness into conscious action.

At this point, with the problem well defined, we had two possible courses of action: either control the target's mental processes to "inhibit" reception of "sixth-sense" feeling or restrain the attacker's projections. Neither Echanis nor I had had success with the former, and we decided to concentrate on the latter.

Because of the high emotion involved in deadly combat, we assumed that these projections generated from an emotional



around and down at 40° angle. Step under direction of target's fall.



Twisted neck exposes carotid artery to blade. Target will fall in direction of attacker's discretion because of neck manipulation. Drive hand

holding knife in opposite direction of falling target. Curve of the blade on "Echanis warrior knife" draws it deeper into exposed area.

center. From prior research we believed this center existed near the solar plexus. Because freezing a physical object meant slowing down or stopping that object's activity, we devised a mental process to "freeze" this center.

The process consisted generally of concentrating the mind to direct a powerful autosuggestion to this center, strong enough to almost feel the coldness in the solar plexus. After gaining some success in maintaining this feeling while moving towards a practice dummy, we developed a closed-in sensation like being wrapped in a soundproof cocoon. Actual testing of this technique was delayed for several months, but we felt confident at the time that we could improve the success rate in closing the last three to five feet of the final approach.

Movement As Solution

Suppressing emotional projections did not entirely solve the problem. Echanis seemed to have more success than I did in approaching the target without revealing his presence. Since, in most cases, quickly closing the interval was necessary, and suppressing the vibrations of quick, sharp movements was more difficult than suppressing slow, careful movements, we would have to devise some method of movement that would be quick but not project ahead of the physical movement.

In observing Echanis, I noticed he had acquired a bouncing, rolling step which became more pronounced just before contact with the target. He said this movement provided him with a base from which to literally explode into removal ac-

tion. Analyzing this method, we came up with the following:

1) This movement is a circular technique. An attack can be initiated from any point in a true circular movement, giving flexibility to improvise quickly.

2) Circular technique requires lightness and relaxation. A light, relaxed feeling equals a silent approach relative to sentry removal.

3) The circular nature of this movement seems to contain the projected vibrations within itself as long as no definite starts and stops, or other straight-line motions occur during the movement.

Applied mind control in this instance worked logically. Thought precedes every action; in order to move with a circular motion, the combatant must think the circular movement first. Willing the body to move in a circular motion requires the mind to generate circular thoughts and feelings. Inhibiting thought and emotional *projections*, not thoughts and emotions, is the objective. In general, inhibiting projections during linear thoughts and actions requires suppression from within.

This ran contrary to what Echanis called generating 100-percent-emotional content for use in combat. It is extremely difficult to generate high levels of emotional ferocity for critical moments in deadly combat, and at the same time try to suppress it to prevent discovery. Consciously willing thoughts and emotions to move in a circle, confined to the space occupied by the physical body, places no limits on the level of intensity created when one is silently stalking a sentry. To the contrary, generating circular thoughts creates a

snowball effect as the momentum feeds upon itself.

The circular stepping movements and mental control of emotional projections provided us with a vastly improved method of body-contact sentry removal. I don't know if Echanis was able to test this system in combat, but we did discuss and work on some removal techniques that were compatible with this new approach system, one of which is illustrated with this article.

ECHANIS ON SILENT KILLING

Mike Echanis planned to write nine volumes on the art of silent killing, but had completed only three when he was killed in Nicaragua.

These volumes are *Knife Self-Defense*, *Knife Throwing* and *Stick Fighting*. They are published by O'Hara Publications, Inc., 1847 W. Empire Ave., Burbank, CA 91504 (phone: 213-843-4444).

The rest of Echanis' material remains in manuscript notes, photographs and the recollections of fellow workers such as Randy Wanner. So far as we know there are no plans to publish this fragmentary material — but if we learn of future publication we'll announce it in *Bulletin Board*.

—M.L. Jones



A man with dark, curly hair and sunglasses is running on a rocky, uneven trail. He is wearing a red t-shirt, black shorts, white socks with red stripes, and blue sneakers. He has a black bag slung over his shoulder. The background shows the vast, layered rock formations of the Grand Canyon under a clear blue sky.

GET TOUGH OR DIE

Survivalist runs
Ancient Hopi
Trail through
Grand Canyon's
length; learns
much about the
Canyon, even
more about
himself.

by John Annerino
Photos: Dick Yetman

IM going to run across *that*?

My companion, veteran canyoneer Reg Hudson, nods silently, then takes a long drag from his cigarette.

Standing here on the very edge of the south rim, it's hard to comprehend the magnitude of what I'm about to attempt: an unprecedented — in modern times — 170-mile run through the Grand Canyon.

If successful, I'll prove the feasibility of my theory that ancient Hopi runners used an inner-canyon trade route to reach distant Havasupai villages when inclement winter weather prevented them from using their usual route atop the south rim.

However if I fail, it may prove only that my two years of arduous physical training and mental preparation are insufficient for a multi-day run through what many consider to be the most sublime and awesome arena on earth. Assuming, that is, I survive its numerous dangers.

It's 4:45 a.m., still too dark to begin the first of many strides down Tanner Trail, along the Colorado River, across Tonto Plateau, and out the Esplanade formation to the finish at Apache Point. Hudson rolls another Prince Albert, while I continue staring pensively into the maw.

I'll follow the trail of primitive man across the Grand Canyon. I know the deck is stacked against me. Distances in the Canyon are so vast, they're frequently incomprehensible to urban dwellers. To make matters more interesting, trails in the Canyon are few, vertical barriers as numerous as they are imposing and water scarce, often nonexistent.

My primary concern, however, is my left ankle. I'd virtually destroyed it during a rock-climbing accident six years ago and doctors at the time assured me I'd "never

run on it again." Spite can be a strange motivation, though, and I wasn't about to have my fate sealed by others if I could help it. It was a long, tough crawl back to where I could actually run again. I looked at the pain as the price of admission — and still do. But the 50-odd 25-to-70-mile wilderness and survival runs I'd completed in the last two years as preparation for the Canyon were for the most part single-day adventures. I usually had several days to allow my ankle to recover before resuming training. But once I descend into the Canyon, it will be an unrelenting push, mile after mile, day in and day out, and I'm not sure my body, let alone my ankle, can stand the test.

When the sun finally creeps over the Desert Facade, a sheer 2,500-foot sandstone precipice on the Canyon's eastern end, I know it's time to enter the great abyss. Hudson shakes my hand. I'm off.

From Lipan Point's 7,288 feet, the Tanner Trail drops one vertical mile in its 12-mile plunge to its confluence with the Colorado River. Once used by a small band of intrepid Navajos in 1863 to flee Kit Carson's cavalry, the Tanner later became popular with horsethieves. They



Phew. A breather before pushing on. Author learned a great deal about his equipment during run and abandoned some of it.



Author Annerino puffs along Grand Canyon burro trail. A false step near any of its many vertical edges could bring run to premature end.

Author leaps one of many objective hazards along route. Others included a rattlesnake and dangerous traverses.





Author bivouacs in parka and space blanket. Uncomfortable, but one hell of a view.

rode stolen stock back and forth across the Grand Canyon en route from northern Arizona to Utah's Badlands.

Like most of the Canyon's 14 rim-to-river trails, the historic Tanner is no longer maintained. So I'm careful to watch where I put my feet, lest I break an ankle and be faced with an agonizing crawl out.

As much as I rivet my eyes to the rock-strewn trail, I fall on my ass repeatedly during the 98 minutes it takes me to run to the river. It's far too rapid a pace — I'm wearing a six-pound survival pack and two two-liter bota bags slung Pancho Villa-style across my chest. (I chose the soft bota bags because they won't beat me to death over the long haul.) But I can't hold back. I've not run in a week so I'd have an edge now and my quadriceps are screaming.

I reach the Colorado River expecting to slog through hot sand and thick stands of tamarisk trees all the way to Unkar Rapids. But I find a well-trod secondary trail paralleling my course along the river. I take it and trot the four miles to Unkar, thinking it will actually link with the beginning of Tonto Trail.

I'm wrong. After numerous dead ends in the south arm of Unkar Creek, I realize the trail leads up to some Indian ruins high above the river, far from my route. I descend cross-country back to the river and resume some semblance of running.

By 11:00 a.m. my route along the south bank of the Colorado comes to a halt at 75-Mile Rapids — I'm blocked by a series of seemingly impassable cliffs jutting over the river. I have two choices: scramble up 75-Mile Creek and head cross-country to Hance Rapids, or attempt an intimidating hand traverse along a four-inch-wide ledge 20 feet above the swift Colorado.

I know the first option will further sap what little reserve I have left and use up the remainder of my precious E.R.G. (Electrolyte Replacement and Glucose),

while the second option seems faster and easier.

An obvious choice I think. The analytical side of my brain is so hazy from having daydreamed through the first 20 miles, I don't realize the implications of my choice until I'm 15 feet across a narrow catwalk. There, the consequences of a fall into frothing, 40-degree whitewater hits home. I try to backtrack, but can't reverse the moves — what rock climbers sometimes call a "no-reverse traverse."

If I fall or the friable sandstone breaks, I'll plummet to the bottom before I can unleash my rucksack and eight pounds of water, and I'll be hammered by the frigid maelstrom far too long to fight my way back to the surface.

Nervously, I begin groping for a better handhold. But each time I test the sandstone, it breaks off in my hands.

I feel like I'm about to fall when I find what feels like a solid "jam crack" above. I insert my left hand, make a fist, and hang from it. It's good: "bombproof." Dangling above the river, I carefully empty the bota bags with my free hand, then blow them up with air to act as a crude flotation device should I fall. I then unstrap the pack, remove it from my right shoulder, and let it hang from my left elbow. I'm ready.

I reach blindly around the right corner with my right hand and pull off yet another handhold. Frantically, I try again, this time sliding my right foot around the corner to test the footing. It's good. All I have to do is put the sequence of moves together on the first try. I back off, rehearse the moves in my head, then cautiously move out.

The traverse goes and I'm able to descend to the river. I jog up a narrow strip of sand to the mouth of Papago Creek, telling myself there's no room for error out here. There I'm faced with a second traverse. This one proves less difficult. Once completed, I know the remainder of my route that day, though steep and grueling, will be straight to my first resupply point in upper Hance Creek.

Hudson is stretched out on a foam pad when I finally drag myself to the junction of the Tonto and Grandview trails. He's spent from the day's coordination of logistics for the resupply points and his descent of the declivitous eastern spur of the Grandview to meet me. I fumble in his pack for the six pack, crack us both a beer, and rack out. It's been an interesting, exhilarating first day's work for both of us. And that's the only way to approach 8 to 12 hours of running, whether in the Grand Canyon or through a dense, humid jungle.

I have to realize I'm going to be out here all friggin' day, so I might as well make the best of it. Take breaks when I can afford to, eat when I'm hungry and grab a little shut-eye if I must. Just get the job done.

The Tonto April 26th, Day 2

Of all the major geological formations in the Grand Canyon, the Tonto is the most suitable for east-west foot travel, primarily because it's the broadest. Situated approximately 4,000 feet above sea level, this shadeless desert platform begins at Red Canyon on the Grand Canyon's east side and ends at Garnet Canyon on the west. Traversing this formation from east to west is the 82-mile Tonto Trail, a decaying track once used by prospectors during the 1800s and abandoned shortly after.

At 5:30 a.m., Hudson climbs back up the Grandview to arrange for my next drop at Indian Gardens later that day, and I strike out across a main leg of the Tonto.

My legs are stiff and I'm still groggy. So I just saunter along, half asleep, expecting the going to be easy from here on out. The rugged eight-mile climb from Red Canyon to the Grandview the day before is behind me. And an earlier recon confirmed our assumption that six of the seven major travertines (limestone formations) intersecting the Tonto between my position and Drop 2 are running with seasonal water. So all I have to do is maintain a moderate pace in this unseasonable heat to get from spring to spring and all the way to the Bright Angel Trail more than 25 miles distant.

After several hours of running, I realize I'm becoming groggy instead of more alert. I can ill afford to. The Tonto occasionally skirts a 500-foot drop by no more than a few feet. So I start looking at the canyon in general. If nothing else, its incomparable scenery flipping past like a coffee-table picture book will wake me up.

Coiled beneath a prickly pear is a rattlesnake.

Out of habit, I momentarily glance down at the trail. Coiled beneath a prickly pear is a rattlesnake. My left leg is already in mid-flight and my left foot is descending toward the deadly pink viper. I lift my arms in the air and heave my body forward, hoping the additional momentum will give me the margin.

It does. The snake strikes, missing my Achilles' tendon by a breath. From that moment on, I suddenly realize how isolated this desert track is within the imprisoning confines of the canyon's high walls.

Bound by the formidable 500-foot-thick Redwall limestone formation above and the almost impenetrable *Granite Gorge* below, the Tonto Trail has few escape routes. Along today's course there are only three established routes that lead up to the south rim or down to the Col-

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ECHANIS CRASHES IN CONTROVERSY

Exclusive SOF Interview with Nicaraguan Intelligence Officer

by SOF Staff

Editor's Note: Brig. Gen. Jose Ivan Allegret, the Nicaraguan National Guard (GN) officer in command of combat forces, was killed in a plane crash on the southern border of Nicaragua in 1978. Accompanying him on the fatal flight were his good friend and fighting companion, Michael D. Echanis, an SOF staff member who had gone to Nicaragua to try his hand as a soldier of fortune; Charles Saunders, an American soldier of fortune; and Nguyen Van Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee recruited in North Carolina, who had served with Special Forces SOG in Vietnam. Following the death of Allegret, one of the few capable officers in the GN, Somoza's fortunes went downhill until he was overthrown in 1979.

It came to the attention of SOF that Lt. Col. Alfonso Villa, a high-ranking member of the Office of National Security (OSN) — Anastasio (Tacho) Somoza's intelligence organization and secret police in Nicaragua — claimed the crash was not an accident and that he knew the real reasons why Allegret, Echanis and the others were killed. SOF, on condition that Villa's present location and appearance not be compromised (for obvious reasons), arranged an interview.

Formed in the 1950s, the OSN was trained by the CIA and responsible for combating subversion within the regime. The principal thrust was against communists, but it occasionally operated against right-wing opponents of Somoza.

Trained in the United States, Villa was the last commander of the OSN Special Unit, an elite undercover intelligence group which was divorced, for security reasons, from the regular OSN. He reported directly to Maj. Gen. Samuel Genie, long-time director of the OSN and a confidant of Gen. Tacho Somoza, the Nicaraguan strongman.

Villa escaped from Nicaragua in the final days of the communist takeover and

now resides in the southwestern United States under an assumed name.

Although SOF is convinced of Villa's bonafides, we are by no means certain that Villa's version is the correct one. However — it could be.

SOF: Col. Villa, how can you claim this crash was not accidental?

VILLA: The plane crash was the culmination of months of intrigue and conspiracy involving the CIA, Gen. Allegret and President Somoza. Several months before the crash, Gen. Genie had discovered the CIA Station Chief in discussion with Allegret, planning ways to move Somoza off the scene. Genie got on to their plot because my brother-in-law, an officer in the only combat-ready infantry battalion in the GN, came to me with a report that Allegret was canvassing for support among the company grade officers to back him in a coup. He claimed the United States was supporting him.

This sounded serious to me, particularly since Allegret was a first-class "loco," capable of almost any kind of stunt, and very definitely a man of action. I immediately went over to Gen. Genie's quarters and had a long talk with him. Genie's first inclination was to dismiss the whole affair as scuttlebutt. Rumors of revolution had always been rampant in the officer corps and generally sprang from innocent remarks twisted in transmission.

But Genie's cautious nature prevailed. He remembered an episode a few years before when Allegret was commander of the engineer battalion and had bragged about being able to use his substantial transport section to bring in enough armed campesinos to seize the capital. Somoza had been sufficiently alarmed to transfer Allegret to the Caribbean port of Bluefields where he languished for a couple of years, lining his pocket from the

fishing industry and dabbling in the narcotics trade, which used the port as a transshipment point into the Gulf Coast states. Genie finally decided it would be worthwhile to check the rumors, particularly considering the increasingly unfriendly attitude of the United States.

SOF: Did you mount an operation against Allegret to get a handle on what he was doing?

VILLA: Not immediately. We were up to our ears in operations against the FSLN (Sandanista National Liberation Front) high command which was moving around more freely inside the country as their support network grew. However, a check was put on the activities of the CIA Chief of Station. He was a great friend of ours, always doing us favors, giving us presents and helping the Special Unit. He also thought he had recruited a couple of my officers to work for him. I let them keep the money and they kept me well informed about what was interesting Big Bob [The CIA Chief of Station] at any time.

SOF: You were running a double-agent operation against the CIA? Didn't they ever get suspicious? Did you feed false information to the CIA?

VILLA: Yeah, this was nothing new. Somoza habitually had penetration inside the U.S. Embassy. At one time it was a code clerk who later sold out to the Russians. Later it was the Station Chief's secretary. Best of all, there was an ambassador who used to pass any and all documents to Somoza. I don't know what kind of arrangement Tacho made with him, but it must have been a pretty juicy deal.

I made one of the recruitments. It was a blond girl who worked at the Embassy; young and pretty, but a hop head. One of my lieutenants, six feet of rippling brown muscles, swept her off her feet. He was



Mike Echanis heading training session of Nicaraguan commandos in 1978.

handsome and irresistible, with an unlimited amount of pot. The girl was in heaven, but she eventually got so spaced out the Embassy sent her home. Even so, we got a lot out of her; she copied everything she could get her hands on.

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The Station caught us a couple of times over the years but still remained friendly. I guess they thought it was all in the game. And we did give them a lot of intelligence on the FSLN in return for equipment, training and advice.

Anyway, Genie put a check on the Station Chief's activities. It was simple since the Station chauffeur was on our payroll. We didn't worry about the trips he took when the chauffeur drove him, but when he took the car alone it was easy to see he

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was playing spy. After a few weeks we noticed that every other Saturday afternoon our big *gringo* headed north out of the city. He would be gone eight hours and return early Sunday morning.

Genie was intrigued by this unusual behavior; it was unheard of for a diplomat to make such a quick trip on a weekend. So he ordered the installation of a bumper beacon on Big Bob's car. We outfitted the tracking receiver on one of our Land Rovers and the next weekend tracked the Station Chief to the beach resort of Poneloya. He arrived at dark, after a two-hour drive. Being careful to stay well back, we lost him among the houses along the beach road but the boys found the car at Allegret's villa.

We'd hit paydirt! To take such precautions, to make such a production out of meeting with Allegret, there had to be a reason for it: Where there is smoke, there is fire. I raced back to Managua to report to Gen. Genie. To my chagrin, an immediate call to the Operations Center placed Allegret in Rivas, on the southern border, commanding operations there, making it impossible for him to be at a rendezvous with the CIA chief.

SOF: Why then did the Station Chief drive two hours out and two back in the middle of the night for a quick drink at a deserted beach house?

VILLA: Upon further investigation it turned out that Allegret had flown out of Rivas in the afternoon and returned shortly after dawn the next morning. So we had him meeting clandestinely with the CIA. That didn't really prove much, the CIA talked to everyone in the country at one time or another, but it was enough for Genie to go to Somoza with a private report.

Somoza stewed a bit over the news, pouted and shouted when it was evident a conspiracy might be in the making. He roundly cursed the State Department and President Carter for being blind to reality in Central America. Jumping to the conclusion that Allegret was up to something, Somoza ordered a full operation to discover the extent and nature of the plot.

Surprisingly, he spoke fondly of Allegret, remembering how his government had been saved when Allegret took the GN's only operating tank and shelled the Grand Hotel where the conservative rebels had barricaded themselves during a revolt some years ago. The rest of the GN had remained inert, trembling, but Allegret saved the day. He then commented that the *gringos* had at least picked the only officer of character in the GN to put their money on. He told Genie not to underestimate Allegret.

SOF: What kind of operation were you capable of mounting?

VILLA: Because of the U.S. involvement and the active, sometimes irrational nature of Allegret, Gen. Genie went all out, by Nicaraguan standards. My Special

Unit was only a handful — maybe 25 people. We bugged the beach villa at Poneloya. The telephone-tap section put a line on his Managua home and office phones. Also, I started a discreet inquiry into Allegret's associates, and how much money he had available. Somoza always believed people were dangerous in proportion to the amount of money they had. This came from Tacho's own propensity to buy people, I guess. Finally, my brother-in-law López was recruited to penetrate the conspiracy when Allegret began collecting support from the combat units.

SOF: How long before this produced any results?

VILLA: It all developed rather slowly. The teltap produced nothing. Allegret was in the field most of the time and conducted little business over the telephone. The bug on the villa confirmed another meeting with Big Bob within days after it was installed, but they were talking out of range of the mike most of the time, perhaps walking on the beach.

The best lead came from the financial investigation. Allegret had accumulated a lot of cash during the past few years. Most of it was stashed in Miami. This was no big surprise; all Nicaraguan generals had their businesses on the side. They got protection money from the gambling dens and whorehouses in the cities where they served as *Commandante*. In addition, Allegret trafficked in cocaine. Among other dodges, he used to smuggle the stuff into the U.S. in the luggage of Dona Hope, Somoza's wife, who was not subject to customs inspection.

For our purposes, the most interesting investment he made was in a blood plasma processing firm with a collecting station in Managua and a processing plant in Miami. His partner in this venture had been identified as a conspirator in the assassination of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. [Chamorro, publisher of *La Prensa*, the leading newspaper in Managua, and a vocal opponent of Somoza, was brutally killed in early January 1978 by assassins whose motivation was never discovered. His death touched off the unrest which eventually toppled Somoza. The government promptly tried several gunmen, one of whom fingered Allegret's partner in the blood processing plant prior to his execution.]

No action had been taken against this guy because he was in the USA, but I sent a couple of boys up to talk to him when I found he was associated with Allegret. They were persuasive, very persuasive. He implicated Allegret as the kingpin in the assassination. Allegret had told him Somoza wanted Chamorro out of the way. That didn't make any sense to Gen. Genie since Chamorro had led a couple of revolutions in the past, and could have been executed for treason both times. But Tacho didn't touch him because he didn't want a martyr on his hands. When Gen.

Genie told Somoza the news about Allegret, he went absolutely berserk. He correctly saw the unfortunate death of Chamorro as the match that lit the flame threatening to consume his regime.

He wondered about Allegret's motives in killing Chamorro. Had it been done at the request of the U.S. to destabilize Nicaragua? Was the United States already conspiring against him at that time, and simply using Allegret as the blunt instrument to carry out their intention to depose him? Or was it only a continuation of the life-long quarrel between Allegret and Chamorro, which had culminated in a fist fight at a theater a few years before where Chamorro had decked Allegret in a humiliating fashion?

SOF: Did you ever get a clear indication of Allegret's motives for the killing?

VILLA: No, it must remain speculation. Within two days of our discovery of the Chamorro angle came the item that persuaded Tacho to act. The rainy season evidently drove Allegret and Big Bob indoors and we finally collected on the Poneloya villa bug — a two-hour review of the CIA's interest in replacing Tacho with a government of national conciliation. Tacho was to be persuaded to leave by a mutiny in the army which Allegret was to engineer with American money. The new government was to include all non-guerrilla elements, even the old-line communist parties.

After Big Bob had departed, Allegret continued to talk to two unidentified confidants, both Nicaraguans. These tapes showed Allegret was planning to double-cross the CIA. He was going to use their support to seduce the GN, but he had no intention of sharing power with a government of national conciliation. He hoped to lure the FSLN leadership out of hiding with a promise to incorporate them in the government so he could eventually snuff them out. Most interesting to Tacho was Allegret's discussion about assassinating him using a band of pseudo-FSLN terrorists.

SOF: How long did it take Tacho to act when you told him?

VILLA: Since there didn't appear to be any definite date for the mutiny and our loyal officers reported no moves to subvert the GN we concluded the plot was still in the incipient stages. Somoza and Genie agonized over the best method of dealing with Allegret. They dismissed as impossible a court martial, as it would destroy the morale of the GN to find a top general planning a mutiny. To hurl accusations against the United States would have been a poor ploy for Tacho at that moment, considering how beleaguered he was. It was impossible to retire Allegret, it would have caused too many questions and would have prompted him to launch his revolt.

Continued on page 87

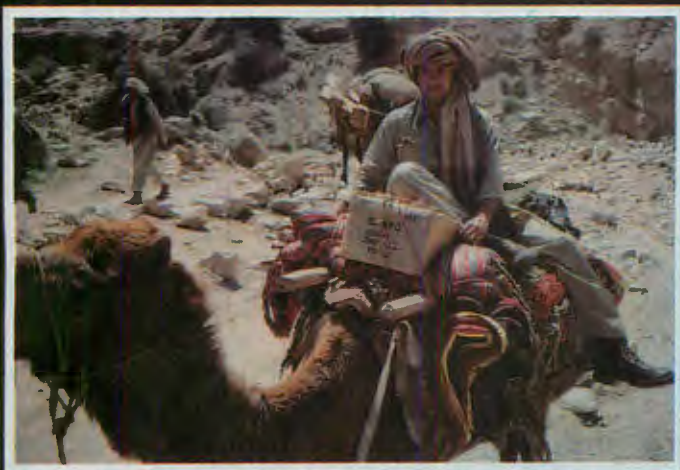


Members of Mike Echanis' elite anti-terrorist unit practice pistol-disarming techniques. Echanis trained and organized this small, elite commando unit, which was most effective in fighting Sandinista guerrillas.

The image is a dark, high-contrast photograph. In the foreground, two men are silhouetted against a lighter, hazy background. The man on the left is wearing a turban and looking towards the right. The man on the right is also wearing a turban and is holding a rifle, with the barrel pointing upwards. The background shows a range of mountains under a pale sky. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

JIHAD IN AFGHANISTAN

**More than the Bear
Bargained For**



EDITOR'S NOTE: SOF's Galen Geer, who spent 11 days in April with the Afghanistan rebels, focuses on the Holy War against the Russians, the Mujahideen soldiers fighting that war and the Pathan tribesmen who supply them from Pakistan, in this second part of his three-part series. His first part, "Assignment Afghanistan," was in the September issue of SOF.

by Galen L. Geer
Photos by Galen L. Geer and Paul James

I looked down from my precarious perch on the camel at the lone Mujahideen walking beside me. For the past hour the Russians had been bombing the valley across the mountain from us, and with each new wave of explosions he shuddered. Finally, when we took a break, I pulled the interpreter, Abdul Massai, to one side and asked him why one man seemed to be so affected by the bombing while the others were indifferent to it.



Afghan rebel firing Soviet 12.7mm DShK M-1938 Heavy MG on mountain near Zeroke.



“Because the bombs are falling on his home,” Massai said, then walked away. His matter-of-fact tone confused me and I struggled to crawl back onto the camel. When I was finally settled, I lit a cigarette and thought about the visions which must have been going through the Afghan’s mind as he heard the bombs fall on the only home he had known since birth.

As I rode along, Paul James, an English freelance photographer who had gone into Afghanistan with me, turned around on his camel and asked me what kind of bombs I thought the Russians were using.

“Beats hell out of me,” I said. “One bomb sounds like another after a few hours.”

James shrugged his shoulders and turned around. We rode in silence, the pounding of the valley the only sound besides the constant ringing of the bell hanging around the camel’s neck.

We spent that night in another one of the countless mud houses the Mujahideen use as “safe houses” throughout Afghanistan. After a skimpy meal of rice, tea and bread we settled onto the floor and inch-thick pads to sleep. In the distance the firing continued — only artillery had taken over from Soviet air. The sound came from the same direction, although we did not know if it was the same target area. One thing was certain, Ivan was going all out for something. I wondered if he was successful.

Mului Abdur Rehman with his French 9mm Parabellum Hotchkiss SMG. In June fighting along road to Gardez, when Soviets attempted to retake Paktia Province, they again tangled with Rehman — and lost another round to Afghans when a 400-vehicle convoy was trapped and shot up.

The next morning, around 0700, the pounding started again. I kept thinking, as the Afghan miles rolled behind us and we stumbled on through the desert and over the never-ceasing hills, that MiGs and choppers make a hell of a one-sided battlefield. Yet, the Mujahideen seemed to be holding their own in the Jihad — the Afghan Holy War.

Jihad — History and Current Events

The Jihad is a confusing mixture of history and present Afghan problems. The war's general purpose, both the tribal and political factions in Peshawar, Pakistan, agree, is to rid Afghanistan of Russians. Each group seems to be going in a different direction, however, and Western observers are left confused and frustrated. To understand the war and the Mujahideen who fight it, SOF readers have to go back more than 2,000 years in history.

In 327 B.C., when Alexander the Great conquered India, he had to pass through what is now Afghanistan. While he managed to score a few victories against the tribes of Afghanistan and the Pathans in the mountains from Kashmir to the Arabian Sea, he never conquered them. They more or less accepted the Macedonians and even absorbed some Greek culture. When the Greeks left, they were influenced by several more cultures and their religions, including Buddhism, until in the 10th century they embraced Islam.

Islam, with a few changes to fit tribal customs and ways of both the Pathans and other Afghan tribes, is an excellent religion for them. It provides strong tribal unity and promotes the family, possessions and devotion to the religion and spiritual leaders of the tribe, region or village, all of which are basics of their own tribal customs.

Since the time they embraced Islam, the tribes have found it has provided a means for them to deal with other peoples, including Christians. Most dealings have centered on war, as they have throughout Afghan tribal history. Wars have included everything from family feuds to throwing out various invaders. When there was no "real war" to be found, these fierce people took just as much pleasure in fighting each other.

Fighting For Sport

Even without a holy war against the Russians, the Afghans would be happy to fight them on a hit-or-miss basis because it is good sport. The basis for fighting is centuries old, not a sudden outpouring of national pride.

The seeds of this Jihad were first spread a decade ago when many of today's political leaders in the Mujahideen began to denounce the communists then active in Afghanistan. Because these men are

spiritual leaders they were able to whip up, shortly after the coup which led to the first communist regime, an anti-communist fever among the people, leading to the first phase of the present Afghan war.

Haji Laiq Shah, a wealthy businessman in Miram Shah in the Tribal Trust area of Pakistan along the Afghan border, pointed out that while he has everything because of his business and his success as a writer in Afghanistan he "is nothing to the Afghan people" because he "is not a spiritual leader. On the other hand, Mului Jalai Up Din, military commander of the larger faction of the Hezbi-Islami of Afghanistan (one of a half-dozen groups operating with political offices in Peshawar, Pakistan), is both respected and revered by the Afghan people.

"Yet he is a poor man who owns nothing," Haji said.



The Mului is a huge man, with a full beard that always seems scroungy looking. He carries a British SMLE and always has at least four and often six bodyguards around him. When he is speaking in a room no one dares utter one word until he is finished.

His speech itself is in direct contrast to his appearance — while he looks like the kind of man who could kill a dozen men, each in a different manner to see how he died, his speech is soft and without the slightest hint of malice. His penetrating eyes seem to look right through you in one instant and in the next are searching your soul, busy learning more about you than you might know yourself. These types of

men, whose carefully selected words, spoken in a measured tone, show their intense devotion to Islam and an inborn ability to command under any conditions, have declared a holy war. For the average Afghan that is enough for them to fight — and die for.

No Death In Battle

Another important point to understand about the Afghan war is that there is no death for the Mujahideen in battle. Because they have become Mujahideen, Holy Warriors, they have already had their Islamic last rites and believe they are dead. When they do die in battle they are accepted into heaven by Muhammad. They become Shaheed and live forever and their graves become shrines.

An Afghan Freedom Fighter watches Soviet air over his shoulder while hiding in the mountains above Gardez.

The Mului pointed out that the Russians cannot kill the Mujahideen, because for every one who is killed in battle, 10 more will rise in his place. It sounds crazy to Westerners until one sees the fever pitch of Afghans leaving Pakistan's tribal areas for Afghanistan and listens to the tales of glory when Mujahideen are killed. New recruits, when they hear these stories, crawl out from under the rocks in refugee camps around Peshawar to join the Islamic groups.

Because Afghan people have spent generations fighting in holy wars, local brush wars and national wars, each family, each generation, has its own history of glory. The present Jihad, for many of the Afghan men, is a chance to expand that glory. By appealing to their religious devotion, their sense of injustice over the destruction of Korans, mosques, the murder of women and children, the bombing of villages, the groups in Peshawar have a bottomless well of manpower. Their only real shortage is weapons.

Because of religious, tribal and political differences between the Islamic groups in Afghanistan and in exile in Peshawar, it is difficult for them to organize what most observers would consider an effective war against Ivan. Actually the groups are well organized. They have a common link in their desire to establish an Islamic state. The actual type of Islamic government they want to install, however, varies from group to group.

It is worth noting that not all of the Afghans who are fighting are Mujahideen, nor are their reasons for fighting based on national pride. A few of the more educated Afghans who have a little more personal ambition than the average mountain or village dweller are in the fight to see what they can gain when the war is over. These men are seldom found in Afghanistan but work at the party-level offices in Peshawar. They are easy to spot in conversation because they will often try to impress Westerners with their plans for becoming officials in the new government after the war.

Jirga For Government

In May of this year, the holy war took a turn for the better when nearly 1,000 Afghans, representing every level of Afghan society, came together in Peshawar to hold a "Loyal Jirga." Six times in the last century the Afghan people have held a Jirga, each time in a period of national emergency. Their purpose is simple: the creation of a new government (in this case a government in exile) which can decide the course of the nation. This most recent Jirga was the first one ever held outside Afghanistan and encountered difficulties in obtaining permission from the government of Pakistan to meet. If the Jirga is successful and a government created, one of the orders of business will be to take control of the various Mujahideen groups operating in Afghanistan and bring them under one military council. Of all the groups in Peshawar only one refused to support the Jirga while I was there: the Hezbi-Islami headed by Golbadeen.

For the past several months this faction of the Hezbi-Islami and the Jamiti-Islami have been fighting each other over the course of the war and who should gain control over the other groups. On 3 May,

the Jamiti's two-story military headquarters was leveled by a bomb that killed 10 Mujahideen and one woman. The Afghans were convinced the bomb was set by KGB agents trying to break up the Jirga. Others were not so sure the Russians did it and believed Golbadeen ordered the bombing. Either way, it is a sign of what could follow the holy war — a civil war between the political parties if the Jirga is not successful.

To most of us who love a good fight and are willing to jump at nearly any chance to get in a few licks with Ivan, the Afghan war would appear to be the place to do it until the holy war begins to come into focus. There are not a lot of mercs around who want to get mixed up in a war where last rites are handed out before the battle.

As the war continues, Ivan will tighten his hold on most of the major roads in Afghanistan, where he can, and force the Mujahideen further back into the mountains. It will not end, however. There is no end to a holy war. It will, most likely, become a PLO-type operation in the next few months unless Western aid begins to

filter into the Mujahideen camps. Even with the lack of arms, Afghans will keep the Russians from ever controlling the rugged desert mountains or the lush pine-forest mountains. Nothing short of a Berlin-type wall is going to seal the border with Pakistan and Iran.

One of my guides on my trip through Paktia Province, while explaining the Jihad to me and the differences between the groups, said: "First, we kill the Russians in the holy war — then we start the real war to find our own government."

It is going to be a very long war for Ivan and the Afghan people.

MUJAHIDEEN: FORGED BY 23 CENTURIES OF WARFARE

I was panting from the climb and my legs felt like lumps of lead. Below, the valley stretched out in an endless sea of brown with a narrow ribbon of water and the



green along the river's edge the only signs of life in the Afghan desert. I looked around at the lush pine forest we had climbed to and the half-dozen smiling Afghan Mujahideen who seemed unaffected by the past four hours of climbing. Paul James, an English freelance photographer who had gone into Afghanistan with me on my assignment for SOF, sat with his back against a tree and I walked over to him, then let myself sag into a heap on the ground.

"Shit!" I said, when my breathing had finally slowed enough so I could talk. "How in the hell do those guys do it? They can't be human."

James smiled his usual noncommittal smile and rolled onto his side to sleep. For 10 days he and I had been walking through Afghanistan with the Mujahideen and we decided they were among the world's nuttiest — although best — fighting men. At times they live off little more than dry bread and tea. They wear nothing more than old worn-out sandals, whether climbing mountains or walking through the desert, and don't give a damn about how far it is to the next water hole

or if they will get a decent meal. Since one of my assignments from SOF had been to find out how the individual Mujahideen lived so we could present readers with a profile of these famous warriors, I observed them closely on our trek. Although I was not able to get inside their minds, I was able to watch them and, when possible, corner one or two in conversation and try to learn where they drew their reserves from. One conclusion I reached is that even the most hardy SOFer would have trouble keeping up with them — I know I did!

One of the most interesting aspects I found while with the Mujahideen was their ruggedness and ability to withstand the demanding nomadic life of fighting the Russians, characteristics not reserved to the "mountain Afghan" but found in everyone, whether from the mountains or

Two Pathan tribesman in the Kohat pass examine an AK-47. Many of the Pathans have joined the Afghan rebels in the fighting in Afghanistan because they feel the threat of the Soviets to their own mountain-homes.



city. All of them, old men, young men, former students or mountain men, shared the same hardships, suffered as equals, had the same bright, penetrating eyes and leathery skin.

On our first day, as we climbed the barren desert mountains into Afghanistan, a pattern developed which was repeated throughout the trip. After about four hours of steady, uphill walking, we reached a small mountain tea house where the Mujahideen took a break. Here they dipped into a large water-filled drum to quench their thirst and, after settling themselves around the tea house, drank super-sweetened tea to keep them going through the afternoon.

We found these tea houses throughout Afghanistan. Some of them were perched on mountain crests, others nestled in valleys where water seemed to spring from the ground. In each one, the Afghans would drink two or three cups of tea, sweetened with four or five tablespoons of sugar, while munching the stale, dry biscuits that would later become our only food for two days. Because these tea houses also serve the countless caravans which plod through the desert and mountains, I dubbed them "Caravan Cafes," a name the Afghans quickly picked up as well.

The Mujahideen never spend more than half an hour in any one tea house and gulp down their tea. The sugar in the tea is enough to revitalize them and they are ready to set out again. None of them could really understand why they had to have sugar and tea, but they did know that without it they would not be able to cross the desert. Once, near the end of the trip, when James and I both felt we could not choke down another cup of the stuff, our interpreter came over and begged us to drink it, saying, "You must. It is what we must have to go."

Tea and Sugar To Keep Going

This staple keeps them going. They do not carry any rations, nor do they carry canteens. They get their water where they find it and meals are often little more than a little rice, *nan* — their dry wheat bread, a staple in the Mideast — and tea. Although they offer to pay for every meal, most are given freely by the mountain people to support the holy war.

A full day's march for the Mujahideen begins before dawn. As soon as the morning's prayers are over, they drink a few cups of tea, tear off a few hunks of bread, then gather together their weapons and what little equipment might be carried on camels or donkeys — and they are off. At midmorning, after walking for at least three hours (more often four), they stop for tea and biscuits and after a *half-hour* break are on their way again. Often, at midmorning, the Mujahideen will buy two or three loaves of Afghan bread and carry it wrapped up in a blanket for lunch. Each

man gets about a third of a loaf. If no tea house is in the area and all they can find is a spring of fresh water, that is all they have.

Evening meals depend on where they stop for the night. In an affluent village or Mujahideen stronghold, chicken will be added to the menu or, possibly, a few pieces of mutton swimming in thick oil which is soaked up with the bread. If not, a little rice, bread and tea is all that can be expected.

Each man carries his own weapon — anything from a World War II Russian pistol to a modern AK-47 captured in recent fighting. Their range of weapons includes shotguns, ancient Chinese machine guns and Enfields.

One Mujahideen irony is their childlike love for bright colors and flowers. All weapons are decorated with colorful beads and leather strips over the stocks and barrels. When walking past a field of flowers, they cannot resist stopping to pick a few to stuff in their guns, hats or to sniff. Their ferocity and gentleness are a paradox. A family whose donkey had sprained a leg was struggling with the animal's load when our group walked past. The Mujahideen picked up the family's load and carried it down the river, then waited for the man and his wife to bring the limping animal along before leaving.

Old men, children and families are routinely helped by these men labeled

ing its polluted water. They will wait to drink until they reach a spring that flows down through rocks and sand from a high place that goats and camels cannot reach.

In the deserts they have established, from centuries of traveling the same routes, water holes which are carefully hidden. Some are so small and well concealed that even a person searching for water would never find them. One we found flowed above the ground for no more than a foot, yet every man in our group knew exactly how to find it.

Before going into Afghanistan I heard tales of the man-killing pace of the Mujahideen. I discovered their "killer pace" would be a crawl to military types who think of cross-country travel as a route step or march. The Mujahideen take small, slow steps in an unchanging rhythm both up and down hill. Where most of us tend to pick up our pace as we go down a trail, the Afghans maintain the same pace, the same distance with each step to conserve energy and moisture in the blazing desert sun. Until I learned to match my steps to theirs I was always either way behind or way in front of the group. Once I figured out what they were doing, I was able to stay with them and live off the meager rations as well as they did.

The Mujahideen may lack the glamor and folk-hero charm many uninformed Western journalists have been trying to attribute to them, yet I found them more interesting and determined than any other fighting men I've spent time in the field with. In their simple, unassuming way, with their determination to throw the Russians out, the Mujahideen are capturing the world's attention and holding the Russian bear at bay — a feat the rest of us would be hard-pressed to equal. It might not be a bad idea to send a few of our own NCOs and officers over to take lessons from them.



Two refugee children in the Tribal Trust lands of Pakistan. Most of the young boys are already learning how to fight so they can take their fathers' and brothers' places in the fighting later.

The most ammunition I found carried by a single man was 50 rounds. One 20-year-old carried a Colt .38 Gold Cup National Match pistol and wore his rounds in a bandoleer across his chest. Most Afghans have from 20 to 30 rounds at any one time. Misfires are saved and put back in the belt to have new primers put in them. Their other standard weapon is an Afghan dagger, a wicked looking knife with a "T"-shaped blade and camel-bone handle that is curled at the end.

Besides their standard Afghan clothing — baggy pants cinched up with rope, loose-fitting shirt and sandals — they carry their blanket over their shoulder. It also serves as camouflage when Soviet choppers pass overhead. Topped off with their turbans, these fierce looking warriors not only look like they can fight — but can!

"bandits" by the Russians. A pretty little girl, about 6 years old, who watched us tramp along the trail that wound through one of the few inhabited villages, was rewarded with money and candy for her smile by the Mujahideen and given affectionate pats on the head by every man. These same men execute all Russians they capture, then chop their bodies up with hatchets and knives.

The Mujahideens' love of life, colors, flowers, children, war and Islam is confusing. Yet, at no time when I was with them did I ever feel threatened, although the United States and other Western nations have not yet helped the Mujahideen with their war.

The Afghans have mastered the art of surviving in their barren country. They cannot, however, explain why they put so much sugar in their tea or why they eat massive amounts of honey whenever they find it. They seem to know from instinct when and where to drink. They will walk for hours along a stream, traveled by camels and herds of goats, without drink-

PATHANS FEAR NO ONE

THE Anmail checkpoint on the Peshawar-Kohat road fell away in the distance. I looked at Shamroz Khan, my host, who smiled and pointed to his chest: "Here," he said proudly, "we are the law. No government."

To add to his declaration of contempt for Pakistani authority he ordered the driver to hurry up. The driver, intimidated by the Pathan's arrogance, responded and in seconds the pickup was screeching around curves as we climbed towards Darra.

Straddling the Kohat Pass in the mountains between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the Pakistan frontier, the village has become a two-way central figure in the

Jihad (holy war) of the Afghan people against the Russian invaders and the Khaqs (pronounced hulks) of Afghanistan who have joined the communists.

In the Afghan war, Darra is important to the Mujahideen because it is an easy source of supply for both weapons and ammunition with which to fight the Russians. For more than 80 years Pathan tribesmen around the Kohat Pass have made their own copies of various weapons used by the British (primarily Lee-Enfields) and by other armies of the world. Pathan weapons have gained notoriety because they have turned up in every corner of the world where clandestine arms have been used.

Although SOF covered the activities of the Pathan gun shops earlier ("Kings of the Khyber Rifles," May '80), my reasons for visiting Darra were more current. SOF wanted to know how the Russian invasion of neighboring Afghanistan was affecting Darra and its gunsmiths. To find out, I met — and became friends with — a Pathan from Darra who lives in Karchi. Taking a train from Karchi to Peshawar with a group of other Pathans gave me some insight into the strange tribal ways of these fierce yet seemingly gentle people. They are proud, independent and scornful of all authority except their own tribal laws handed down through the generations.

**"We do not have laws—
we have *Pukhtunwali*."**

At each poppy field along the road to Darra, Shamroz ordered the driver to stop so he could proudly show off the fields his people were growing. Finally, I asked why he was showing me opium fields when so many nations have laws banning it.

"Because," he said, smiling, "we do not have laws here. Only *Pukhtunwali* (the way of the Pathans)!"

That should explain to the world why the people of Darra are willing to supply the Mujahideen with weapons and ammunition while the Western world toys with international politics. Explained Shamroz's brother, Zahir: "We are not afraid of Russians. We are not afraid of Americans. We fear no one. They want to bomb us for making guns for the Mujahideen? Go ahead, let them send their

ABOVE: Hero of Zeroke, Mulul Mati Ullah, holding British SMLE, is credited with killing six Soviet officers and engineering one of most successful attacks by Mujahideen during Battle of Zeroke in which more than 500 communists were killed. Area was freed of all communist influence.

RIGHT: Pathan tribesman who found himself featured in the May '80 issue of SOF ("Roll Your Own Rifles"), chuckles over story. Most Pathans were more interested in pictures of weapons than articles.

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bombs. When they are finished, we will come out of the mountains and join the Mujahideen and kill the Russians like we have all of our enemies.”

To the modern world, which trembles before the threat of a total war with Russia, the ranting of a tribesman from Pakistan’s hills may seem to border on insanity. It isn’t. For these people, revenge against *anyone* who might offend their women (*zan*), gold (*zar*) and land (*zamin*) must be *total* and complete. A Soviet attempt to control them would lead to their joining the *Jihad* against the Russians. Their complex system of tribal society still baffles scholars and attracts their research. Understanding the Pathans and why they openly defy the world requires a





ABOVE: Afghan rebels with commander of Zeroke stronghold, Mului Mati Ullah, practice with captured Russian 82mm mortar.

FAR LEFT: Afghan rebels of Jamiti-Islami in hospital near Peshawar, Pakistan.

LEFT: Rebels have few supplies, even for wounded. They make soup from leftovers for the hospital.

step back 2,300 years, something which must be done if one hopes to understand the complex war being fought against the Soviet Union, where all help from soldiers of fortune, even if offered free, is steadfastly refused.

The border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is called the "Durand Line." It was established in 1893 when Sir Mortimer Durand signed an agreement with the Afghan Amir, Abdur *Ruhman*, separating Afghanistan from India. This border area is home to roughly 11 million Pathans. Since no one has ever been able to count the women and children (the men allow little outside contact with their families), the exact number is impossible



SPECS AND SPECULATIONS ON RUSSIA'S 5.45mm ROUND

by SOF Staff

OUR readers are aware that the first Soviet 5.45mm ammunition ever seen or evaluated by Western intelligence agencies (see "Assignment Afghanistan," SOF, September '80) was brought to the U.S. by SOF's Galen Geer.

SOF kept a few rounds for study here and we have compiled — from our own and other sources — an initial analysis and data sheet on the round. While the data obtained so far is not complete — it will require even more extensive and sophisticated testing — what is known so far has been passed on to interested government agencies and briefings have been given to intelligence and medical personnel of both active and reserve components of the United States Army.

According to David C. Isby, who wrote *Jane's Weapons and Tactics of the Soviet Army* and who has recently joined the list of SOF contributors (see "Ivan's Elite," p. 66), there are two versions of the Avtomat Kalashnikov 74 (designed by M.T. Kalashnikov, who also designed the AK-47, AKM, RPK, PK and SVD) which use the 5.45mm cartridge. The folding-stock version has been tentatively called the AKD-74 and fixed stock version, the AKS-74.

The major difference in appearance between the AK-47 and the AK-74 appears to be the addition of a large flash reducer and a very distinctive muzzle brake. The orange plastic AK-74 magazine is no different in general appearance and color from some of the AK-47 magazines that have been seen in Africa and other satellite countries in the last few years, except that it has a straighter configuration than the 7.62x39mm magazine.

Examination of the 5.45mm rounds in SOF's possession has produced some support for the speculation that the round produces severe wounds, as reported in Afghanistan, due to its length-over-diameter ratio and the bullet design. The combination of these two characteristics could tend to make the round unstable when it strikes a fleshy medium.

It was first thought that the length-over-diameter ratio was so great that accuracy would be marginal. With such a long length-over-diameter ratio, the balance of the bullet was assumed to be too far forward and would be difficult to stabilize, even with a high rate of rifling twist in the barrel.



LARGER PHOTO: Soviet 5.45mm (right) and 5.56mm U.S. rounds (left) for comparison. Note the thicker rim and deeper extraction groove on steel-cased Soviet round. Not much chance of extractor tearing off extraction rim with this cartridge, even if weapon has a high cyclic rate of fire.

INSERT PHOTO: Smaller photo shows sectioned 5.45mm Soviet bullet. Mild-steel double-ended boattail core is shown on right. Note the two bullet-jacket halves with lead filler and forward air space.



However, once we had sectioned the bullet and found an air space, lead plug and mild-steel core directly to the rear of the bullet's thin-jacketed point, it became clear that the balance point of the bullet was further to the rear. If the proper twist is used in the barrel, the long, thin bullet with the balance to the rear theoretically could be very accurate.

Another advantage of the long length-over-diameter ratio is the excellent drag coefficient that the bullet most likely possesses. With such a low drag coefficient, velocity drops off at a much slower rate. By retaining more of its velocity at greater range, the round would have a flatter trajectory and retain more of its energy.

The Soviets themselves have unintentionally provided one critical piece of information about the 5.45mm round. In an official Soviet military publication, an article was written on how much lead to give a moving target at a given range and speed. This information was used to obtain the estimated velocity of the 5.45mm bullet.

One of our alert government employees looked at the available information and calculated the velocity of the new round from the Soviet figures. A very good piece of work.

The Soviet article gave the target speed of three meters per second and a lead factor of .33 meters at 100 meters. Given the formula: Time equals Distance divided by Velocity (Distance equals .33 meters, Velocity equals three meters per second) we find that time elapsed is .11 seconds. This is also the flight time of

the bullet for 100 meters. To find the velocity of the round, use the formula Velocity equals Distance divided by Time (Distance equals 100 meters, Time equals .11 seconds). This gives us a velocity of 909.09 meters per second, which converts to 2982.54 feet per second. Figuring in the drag of the projectile, one arrives at the approximate muzzle velocity of 2956 feet per second.

Based on the data available at this time, the muzzle velocity, the long length-over-diameter ratio and the overall bullet design, the Russians have produced an accurate, lethal, lightweight round.

CARTRIDGE CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE SOVIET 5.45x39.5mm ROUND

Two types known to exist:
Ball and Tracer

Cartridge Case	.....	Lacquered steel
Bullet Diameter	.....	5.45mm or .221 inches (this is an average diameter measured from four projectiles taken with a micrometer)
Bullet Weight	.....	53.5 grains
Bullet Length	.....	.25mm or .995 inches
Cartridge Case Length	.....	39.5mm
Overall Cartridge Length	.....	56.5mm
Caliber Ogive	.....	3
Caliber Cylindrical Section	.....	1
Caliber Boattail	.....	1
Propellant	.....	22.3 grains of ball powder
Primer	.....	Standard 5mm Berdan Primer
Muzzle Velocity (estimated)	.....	2956 feet-per-second 900 meters-per-second
Muzzle Energy (estimated)	.....	1007 foot-pounds
Cartridge Case Base Diameter	.....	10mm or .394 inches

PATHANS

to determine. One known fact about the Pathans is that they are the largest tribal society in the world.

Because they are a tribal society, they are often dismissed in world politics. However, they have had a direct effect on every war fought in this area for centuries and most wars fought elsewhere. Pathans can be found anywhere in the world where success, position, power and money are collected — and where anything contrary to existing laws may prove financially rewarding. They run the police force in New Delhi; they are among the most wealthy farmers of California, hold the better stations in Australia and have been found running guns from the Mekong to Kashmir. But none of them forget their mountain homes, even when born in another country, and most manage to make one trip home during their lives to share a few months with their tribal kinsmen.

“It is right for a Pathan to fight for his home.”

Their love for the craggy hills runs in their blood. The threat of the bordering Soviet Union and the higher demand for guns from the Mujahideen have brought many of the younger men back to the hills until “the crisis is past.” Shamroz left a well-paying job in Saudi Arabia to return to his family to help turn out guns for the Mujahideen. He explained, “It is right for a Pathan to fight for his home. For now I will make weapons.”

Although called “Pathan” (pronounced P’tan) the name is really an English corruption of Puktan or Pushtan. A few even call themselves Afghan, although they have no connection with the Afghan Mujahideen.

There are four main groups of Pathans. These are the Durrani tribes, the Ghilzai, the true nomads (although the border closing limits their wanderings), and the independent or free tribes who live in the tribal territory and rule themselves. Of this group the Kuttaks and the Aridi are the tribes making guns.

Today’s Pathans seem to be spoiling for a fight with the Russians, a fact which is not surprising, considering their history is mixed with the blood of past armies. When Alexander the Great invaded India in 327 B.C., he met the early Pathans. They appeared indifferent until he tried to rule the passes. He learned quickly it was better to work with them than to fight them, if he wanted the vital land routes to remain secure. Slowly, the Pathans absorbed some Macedonian culture. Around the end of the 10th century, they were converted to Islam. Somehow, that conversion seems to have helped set the stage for the holy war they are now mixed up in.



Seventeen-year-old Jamillia lost her face to a Russian bomb in March. Somehow she and her mother managed to stumble through the Afghan mountains for eight days before reaching the Khyber hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan.

When Genghis Khan led his Mongols into the Peshawar valley, he too encountered the Pathans. So did Tamerlane, when he invaded India. In both cases, the Pathans, through a strange combination of Islam and their own tribal ways, jumped into war with the Mongols — a war lasting some 200 years. It was the Pathans who severed the land route to Central Asia and helped topple the Mongol empire and open the door for the British.

For the Pathans, British rule was a “fun war” which is still talked about wherever the men gather. Each generation of Pathan men would start a fight with the British, collect some bounty and glory, then settle on new peace terms. By the end of the 19th century, the stage was set for the present Pathan stance toward the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. When Tsarist Russia began its advance to a warm-water port, the British, fearing expansionism, rushed to build forts in the Pathan lands and secure the passes and hills. The result was a bitter, total war against the British with Russia blamed for forcing the British to violate Pathan land. Although the English won the passes, they never controlled the hills nor subdued the Pathans, masters of guerrilla warfare even then.

The Pathans have not forgotten the Russian threat and their designs on the Pathan hills and passes. To Shamroz and others, the Soviet invasion is a new step in an age-old war. To let the Soviet Union know how they feel, Pathan men have put aside their old conflicts with Afghanistan’s tribes and are happy to help the Mujahideen. Captured Soviet weapons are traded in Darra for Enfields, Sten guns, hand grenades and ammunition. In return, the Pathans are examining captured heavy-infantry weapons with plans to make copies.

“When we understand the weapons,”

Shamroz explained, “we will make them, and ammunition for them. Some we will sell to the Afghans; others we will keep for ourselves. This is a holy war the Russians started a long time ago. This time we will finish it.”

The fact that it is a different government means nothing to the Pathans.

“Only dead Russians are good Russians.”

“A Russian is a Russian,” Shamroz said, “and only dead Russians are good Russians.”

Because of their hate for Russians, the Pathans are also making better deals for the Afghan freedom fighters on weapon prices than they would for other buyers.

“An American, maybe he will pay 800 rupees for a gun,” Shamroz said, “but an Afghan pays only 400 rupees for the same gun because he will use it to kill Russians.”

In one gun shop, a group of Afghans sat on the floor, counting rounds of ammunition. Each round was examined, then dropped in a plastic bag. The Mujahideen are delighted with the weapons they buy but want to know where the American arms are. Explained one, “Give me anti-tank guns and I will kill more Russians than you can count.”

The Pathans are just as pleased with the sale of the weapons. In one corner stood bundles of Enfields, waiting for a donkey ride into Afghanistan. Because the Russians might try to dry up the source of Mujahideen weapons after world pressure drops off, I asked Shamroz if he was worried about a Russian attack.

“We are our own government — we make our own wars.”

“No,” he said simply. “Some of our younger people hope the Russians will attack. Some of the older ones, too. The Russians are old enemies. It would be a good excuse to fight. Since we are our own government we make our own wars. The Russians are stupid. We have always controlled these hills, and always will.”

So, the gun making of Pathan tribes in the hills between Pakistan and Afghanistan will continue. The Russian soldier will have to face an enemy created by his country a century before, an enemy armed with weapons made by hand in adobe huts. The one lesson Russian commanders must be learning is that mud-hut weapons kill just as dead as any other. And the fact that carrying it is a “Holy Warrior” who is continuing a long-standing tradition of killing Russians, makes it that much more difficult to cope with.

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FATAL FEATHERWEIGHT

PC-80:

Sweden's Revolutionary New Machine Pistol

by Jeff Cooper

AS we near the end of the 20th century, it is curious to note a general acceptance of a belief that today's men are not up to their fathers' standards. Despite the fact that world's sports records are constantly being broken, that certain people are running faster, leaping higher and throwing farther than they did in the past, we must accept the fact that they are special — not average men.

Today's infantry weapons are not nearly as powerful as those issued in the early part of the century. Soldiers in both World Wars I and II — to say nothing of all the other wars in and around that period — were issued powerful rifles of approximately .30 caliber which could stop a man or a horse or a truck, as far away as the shooter could clearly see him.

At short ranges the same weapons were ferociously effective — so much so that today's problem of stopping power never arose. But somewhere along the line the armorers of the world decided that those old guns were too big, loud, powerful and intimidating for these new people who were showing up in uniform. The father could handle a .30-06 or an 8x57 with ease, but the son must be issued something of less authority because it is easier to use.



Therefore, we now have a world split between the communists, using the 7.62x39 (which we call the .30 caliber Russian Short in this country), and the presumably free world, rapidly changing completely over to the .223 cartridge (5.56mm).

There are various theories behind this switch. I think the one holding the most credence is that which says that modern soldiers do not fight with their own personal weapons but rather with telephones, by means of which they call in supporting fire of various sorts. If this is the case, then the soldier need not have a weapon of any great power, only something light and handy that will give him a certain confidence to prepare for a short-range encounter with an enemy soldier.

As this policy becomes widespread, it naturally brings with it a reduction in marksmanship skills of the people involved. Modern assault rifles in general seriously lack practical accuracy, possess dreadful triggers and are not even equipped with a shooting sling, though they may incorporate a bipod. Such weapons in the hands of sketchily trained troops have a useful range of around 100 meters — which can be stretched in exceptional circumstances to 200 meters. The best



ABOVE: First prototype of Johansson's PC-80 in .221 Fireball caliber, left-hand view, with stock extended and 16-inch barrel installed. RIGHT: PC-80 with stock folded forward in stowage position. Note location of sling swivels. LOWER RIGHT: Short-barreled version of PC-80 with stock folded. There was no selector switch on prototype sent to author.

American infantry of WWI were able to devastate enemy formations at 600 meters, but apparently we no longer have such men.

Stopping Power vs. Range

If the effective range of the individual infantryman is to be limited to about 150 meters, there seems little point in handing him a weapon which has been selected with range considerations rather than stopping considerations in mind. The .223 is a poor stopper and the .30 Russian Short is not a great deal better. The latter was developed after the German pattern known as the 7.92 Kurz, introduced in the MP-43.

It should be remembered that the Germans were attempting essentially to split the difference between the G-98, a Phase One battle rifle, and the MP-40, a machine pistol. Their experience led them to believe that long range was not important in the sort of fighting that they had been thrust into.

On the one hand, the G-98 was cumbersome and slow, while on the other, the MP-40 was pretty anemic, taking the undersized 9mm Parabellum cartridge. (The Germans did indeed have the G-43, but not in such large numbers as to influence their decision here.)

The MP-43 turned out to be an interesting compromise — not as powerful as a full-sized rifle, but considerably more so than the machine pistol. It also could be used with a fair degree of close-range accuracy on semiautomatic, and its slow cyclic rate made it quite controllable on full automatic when such was deemed desirable.

The Notorious Kalashnikov

This idea was picked up by the Russians, and the result is the now notorious AK-47 (Kalashnikov) assault rifle together with its descendants and siblings. The Kalashnikov family of infantry weapons is highly regarded by many people — some of whom are qualified to render opinions on the subject. It is not, however, the entire answer to this problem. Curiously enough, the Russians have commenced a changeover to their own version of the .22 centerfire battle cartridge — which I imagine will be not one whit better than our disreputable .223.

The Answer Is Power

Can we do better? I think we can. An interesting item came across my desk recently which seems to me to be a better sort of battle carbine than any I have seen so far. It was shown to me by its inventor, Bertil Johansson of Malmo, Sweden. At first glance it seems to be a fairly conventional machine pistol of the modern school of design, featuring a collapsible stock and a short barrel. The prototype is

extremely well made since it had to be produced by hand. One might ask what it has to offer over, say, the HK-53 or the short version of the M16. There are several answers, but the most important is power.

The prototype of the PC-80 was constructed in the curious .221 Fireball cartridge, for political reasons. It features a coaxial gas lock with two husky opposing lugs on its rotary bolt. Its trigger design is capable of considerable refinement. It fires from a closed bolt and feeds through its pistol grip. For purposes of import into the United States, the prototype that I used features a 16-inch barrel to please our officials. This barrel could be of any length, but 16 is a pretty good place to start. Johansson works for the Aim Point Company in Sweden, and naturally his piece is fitted to take the Aim Point sight if desired.

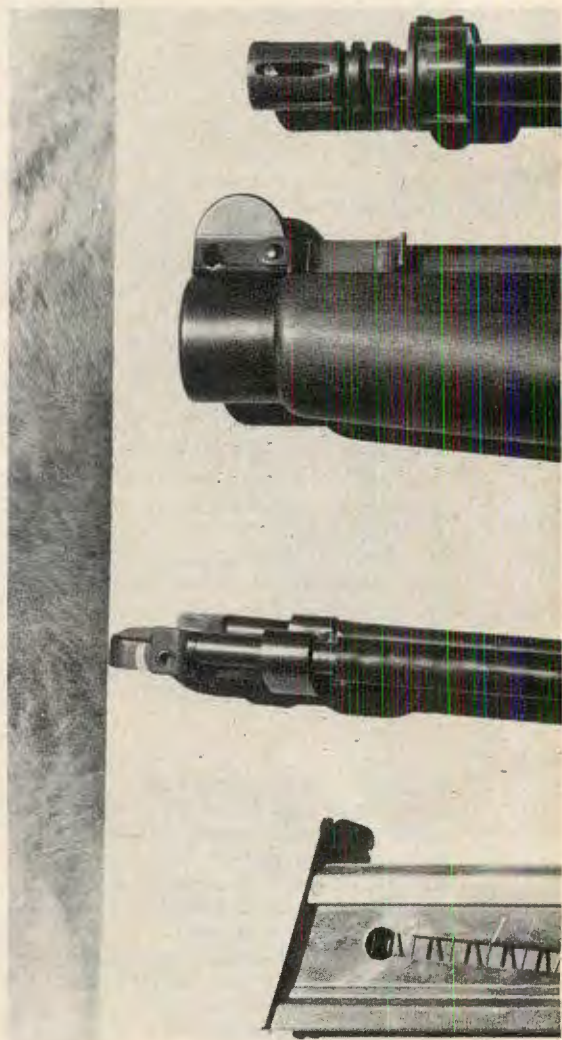
The prototype shows ingenuity of design and, because of its action system, could prove very reliable under conditions of serious use. A good trigger and a closed bolt enable it to be handled with all the precision the shooter can manage. What is most interesting about it, however, is that it can withstand almost any pressure and thus need not be made for the cartridge it now handles. We discussed this at some length and settled upon a round which may surprise you: the .44 Auto Mag cartridge.

Think about that a little. How about a compact, collapsible, semiautomatic carbine throwing a .44 caliber, 240-grain bullet at between 1,800 and 1,900 f/s, capable of extreme precision, and equipped with a high-speed optical sight? (Naturally the piece can be made to shoot either three-shot bursts or fully automatically at any cyclic rate desired. This might be interesting to armies, if not to private citizens or police departments.) The current flush magazine will take eight rounds — which should be quite satisfactory for the semiautomatic model — but extension magazines (including snail drums up to almost any capacity) can be fitted into the same socket if fully automatic fire is deemed important.

The forged prototype weighs about eight pounds, but in production trim this would be reduced to seven.

Coming Up Soon

Maybe we have something here. The new prototype in .44 Auto Mag will be available by the end of this year and should prove an exciting test item. Seven pounds, collapsible, highly accurate, extremely controllable with its optical sight, featuring a very fine trigger and striking a decisive blow. If the piece is zeroed for 150 yards it will have a working range of about 180, which is as far away as today's trooper can be expected to hit a target, and certainly double the distance at which police departments need to handle terrorist problems.





ABOVE: Chuck Taylor demonstrating Johansson's PC-80 at American Pistol Institute in Gunsite, Arizona.

LEFT: Author Cooper demonstrating PC-80 from kneeling position. Note compactness of design.

BELOW: The PC-80 field-stripped. Note high-quality manufacture and overall good design with few parts after disassembly.



The .44 Auto Mag cartridge, fitted with the 240-grain JTC bullet (for Geneva conventions), should prove a decisive one-shot stopper at all ranges. If penetration is desired, a solid copper bullet of the *Arcane* description is easy to provide. The entire package seems to be what I would choose as my back-up long gun if I were setting up a tactical-response unit for police work. It would also seem ideal as an anti-piracy package — now becoming much in demand in the Caribbean.

What Makes It Better

It is fair to ask wherein the PC-80 is an improvement over the existing Ruger .44 Magnum carbine. There are several answers: first, continuity fire is much easier to manage in the PC-80 than in the Ruger because of the difficulty in loading a tubular magazine. (I once heard it said that to reload a Ruger Deerslayer one needs three hands.)

The PC-80 can take a magazine of any capacity desired, compatible with weight and bulk. Collapsible, it slides into a small package. In combination with its Aim Point sight it offers extreme rapidity combined with a high degree of precision up to middle ranges. Its improved gas lock features quick takedown and ease of cleaning and maintenance without tools. And it is a thunderous thumper!

Police Carbine

I confess that the entire piece is fascinating. We have temporarily dubbed it the Police Carbine, Model of 1980 — but it certainly need not be confined to police markets. Any complete evaluation will have to wait for the production of the .44 caliber version, due by summer's end.

One desirable feature to be incorporated is a reversible safety which can be inserted either from the right or left side, to take care of southpaws. This safety will have only two positions on the normal model, but in the automatic version it will have a detent that will stop its thrust at semiautomatic and require two hands to place it either on three-shot selector or fully automatic. These matters are not of personal concern since that version will be made available to governments on order.

About the only difficulty I can foresee is that of price. The weapon may be fairly expensive, though one hopes that modern engineering ingenuity can reduce the number of machine operations to a minimum. The Aim Point sight is not cheap and will further add to the price of the finished product, though the weapon may be had with iron sights only if desired. (At present we are considering a simple ghost ring with only two settings — "point-blank" and "way out.")

Obviously, the most interesting single thing about the concept is the cartridge. It seems likely that the .44 Auto Mag cartridge would be a distinct improvement

over either the .223 or the 30RS for ordinary infantry employment. We are labeling the piece "Police" because we believe police will have first interest in this type of arm. Whether the world's armies can see the light will depend on extraneous matters, but certainly no man with any experience would choose to take either a 9mm Parabellum squirt gun or a .223 into close action if he could have a .44 Auto Mag of equal handiness and ease of use.

Those who have seen much action are pretty well agreed that if you want a *rifle* you want something of the .30-caliber persuasion — .30-06, .308, .303 British, 7.5 Swiss, etc. — and that if what you need is a *carbine*, you definitely need something more than a .223. In considering what is "more" we can note that the .223 cartridge generates a bullet momentum factor of 18; the 30RS, 24; and the .44 Magnum (16-inch), 43 (as compared to the .308's 44). If we consider that momentum is normally accentuated by impact area and bullet configuration, we may make an educated guess that the short-range fight-stopping ability of the PC-80 would be distinctly superior to that of a .308.



Only more testing can establish that fact for sure, and the tests will have to be of a rather gruesome character, but *theoretically* we have here what may be the very latest award-winning, computer-programmed infantry arm. I am going to be sitting on the edge of my chair until the new prototype reaches my hands for testing.

PC-80 with Aim Point sight installed.



TERRAIN

Continued from page 12

For close concealment, where it really counts that the gun be next to invisible, the Barami Hip Grip is the only choice.

The Barami people started out with a replacement grip panel, then later added a left-grip panel for cosmetic and holding-sameness reasons. The Hip Grip itself is simple. High-strength plastic duplicates original grip-plate design, then a shelf is extended from the top of the right-grip plate, which runs out and up from the right-hand side of the frame behind the recoil shield. When the gun is shoved in the trouser band, with or without belt, this shelf works like a hook and suspends the gun, preventing it — under most circumstances — from sliding down and falling to the ground.

I've used a Hip Grip with the Model 36 and 60 Smiths, the Detective Special Colt, etc. Many people fail to realize that the Hip Grip is also available for round- and square-butt K-frame Smiths and the Colt Diamondback four-inch. Since barrel length up to four inches in a revolver makes little difference in its concealability, using the Hip Grip with these slightly larger guns makes better sense, and with Plus P .38s when safe to do so — a much more effective package, since the longer barrel allows the user to take advantage of this load's extra energy.

I own only two snubby revolvers now, one a Colt Lawman — which I'd put a Hip Grip on in a minute if Barami made

one — and a Smith Model 60. The latter is fitted with the Hip Grip and I wouldn't have it any other way.

If, when summer comes, you don't want the bulk of a .45 under lightweight clothing, and you choose a .38, then the Barami Hip Grip is the answer. Retail, from Barami direct or your local gunshop, is \$10.95. For more information, or to order, write Barami, Dept. SOF, 6250 E. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48234, U.S.A.

READERS of this column and of gun-related materials in general must occasionally become upset at the emphasis on the .45 — most police are stuck with a .38 or .357 Magnum only and are likely to remain so for quite a few years to come. So, it's time to explain what to do with an ordinary .38 to boost its effectiveness.

Numerous municipalities have recently been using a load which has proven effectiveness. If one has a .357 Magnum, there are many excellent loads to choose from — Federal's 158-grain semi-jacketed soft-point, for example — my preference with the Colt Lawman two-inch and the six-inch Python. For the straight .38, like the Model 10 M&P Smith or the adjustable-sight version, the Model 15 Combat Masterpiece, and their stainless counterparts, probably the best choice is the Winchester-Western 158-grain lead hollowpoint .38 Plus P.

First ascertain that your .38 will handle Plus P loads, and do not confuse them with Plus P Plus 110-grain .38 Special

"Treasury Loads." Many guns that will handle standard Plus P .38s will definitely not handle these. I've used the 158-grain lead hollowpoint Winchester in a number of guns, including the Model 60 — the only modern .38 I own — and have had no problems. Though a J-frame S&W takes quite a battering with any Plus P, infrequent use of these loads in a gun safe to start with should be all right. With a K-frame or similar gun, there should be no problem, but it would be wise to have any gun not normally using hotter loads checked by a competent gunsmith first. I would — especially with a J-frame gun. In the Detective Specials I've tried, this load has not presented a problem.

I and many others prefer a meatier caliber than .38 Special; however, it seems a .38 Plus P load comes close to approaching standard .45 ACP hardball effectiveness. When packing a .38, remember a good Plus P load in an up-to-standard gun — like the 158-grain lead hollowpoint — does make a difference.

Since police agencies are not likely to change to the .45 or something else more powerful overnight, scouting the right load for the .38 at least allows one to take advantage of the situation. Furthermore, if one has his gun properly inspected to find out if it can handle Plus Ps, and if it checks out and he examines it after firing for potential damage (loosening screws, etc.), he can have the best possible in the current situation.



Battlefield Wrong Arena for ERA

by Fred Reed

WHEN amateurs toy with the military in accord with social fashion, soldiers eventually die for it. This is a quaint truth which the women-in-combat people ought to ponder at great and careful length. In fact, the thought seems not to have occurred to them. The trouble is not that feminists are indifferent to the loss of life, but that they know nothing of war, often do not believe that war is justifiable and view combat as a distant prospect. But for those who do the dying, war acquires a piquant immediacy.

The motives behind the campaign to put women in combat are utterly political. Chief among them are a romantic egalitarianism, a vague sense of injustice, a fear of the women's lobbies and a desire for re-election. Considerations of military effectiveness languish because the advocates of female infantry are not, as a group, interested in the practical military: gunships, tanks, squad tactics, strategy.

They tend to be of the insulated American left who banned the bomb, levitated the Pentagon and voted for McGovern. They are not evil people, but they live in a mental world remote from military matters. Their political concerns are social. They want racial harmony, day-care centers, food for the poor and an end to discrimination. In my experience, they simply don't like military men, who are often exuberant male chauvinists. They not infrequently regard war as the fault of the Pentagon, and question the legitimacy of the military. In short, they are extremely well-equipped not to make military policy.

A persuasive case can be made for many of the reforms desired by feminists. But on military matters, their illogic is frightening, their ignorance incredible. Some years ago, as a reporter for the *Army Times* paper, I interviewed a ranking officer of the National Organization of Women (NOW) on the women-in-combat question. Never have I heard such convoluted inconsistency; such blank ignorance of the military at war. She told me in one sentence that women are as strong as men; in the next that they would be as strong if they were raised differently. Are-and-would-be was a persistent theme. According to her, women are as aggressive as men, and would be if they were raised differently.

In particular, she had no notion of the physical demands of combat. I pointed out that a wounded man under fire has to be carried off the field quickly. It takes heavy musculature to throw a 165-pound man over one's back and run with him. When I went through Marine basic, everyone did it. Could women? Well, she said, the woman could take the feet, and a man could carry the shoulders.

My distinct impression is that feminists do not want women to serve in combat. They want the abstract right to do it, but certainly not the obligation. Unfortunately, the two are not easily separated. When I asked about conscription should the ERA pass, the response was evasive: the Army is all volunteer, and isn't it time we stopped having wars anyway?

FEMINISTS seem to have a powerful desire for equality, and no intention of letting biology get in the way. It is as if men were to demand the legal right to give birth.

She suggested, as many feminists do, that only physically qualified women should be admitted to the infantry. The idea is reasonable on the surface. The sorry fact is that standards don't last when politics prevail. In the past, when an ethnic or racial group has not produced enough qualified men for a given job, Washington has forced the military to lower its standards.

This solution attracts politicians because it suggests social concern and is suitably conspicuous. Nobody dies because of it until the next war, when the deaths will be blamed on something, or someone, else. Precisely the same thing is happening with women. Physical standards are lower for women than for men at the service academies. The Army is busily buying smaller uniforms for women. On the average, smaller people are weaker and able to carry less weight.

Feminists can argue that if women haven't been proved able to handle combat, neither have they been proved unable. The wise thing is to conduct a test — train a few squadrons of women as fighter pilots and lend them, after a bit of arm-twisting, to an ally that engages in combat. Israel comes to mind. If women can handle air combat, they can handle any non-physical fighting. Then train a battalion of volunteer women as infantry, give them competent male officers, and try them in a bush war. One will come along.

IF they perform well, then by all means recruit women on an equal basis with men. Until then, don't tinker with men's lives and the nation's safety for the gratification of a pressure group.

IVAN'S ELITE



Soviet airborne troopers launch attack, using new AKD assault rifles. Photo: V.M. Martinava

Soviet Special and Unconventional Warfare Units

by David C. Isby

THE Soviet army is a mass armored force. Its striking power lies in no less than 52 tank and 117 motorized-rifle divisions, backed by strong combat and service support elements. All units down to division level have nuclear-capable rockets, missiles and artillery. In sheer size and weight of metal, these forces tower above Soviet special and unconventional warfare units, and though comparatively small, *have* an importance far beyond their numbers.

They have the power to operate independently in low- and middle-intensity conflicts where the commitment of full divisions of troops might be politically —

or logistically — difficult, and also to operate in conjunction with the armored spearheads in a major war in Europe or Asia. This aspect of the threat has more significance than is immediately apparent.

The human resources upon which the Soviets can draw for their special warfare forces have both strengths and weaknesses. The Soviet soldier is a field soldier. He is toughened by an intense training program and living conditions that are Spartan even by Soviet standards. He is not the illiterate peasant of World War II.

Today's average Soviet rifleman has more schooling than his U.S. counterpart. His weapons and tactics are simple and "soldier-proofed," so that he learns how to do what is expected of him during his two years' service.

Other elements in the Soviet army weaken its special-warfare capability: because of the army's mass orientation, the average enlisted man is trained, by drill and rote, to fight as part of a unit, not as an individual. Veteran Soviet NCOs, the mainstay of any special warfare unit, are in short supply. Only 15 percent of the Soviet army is composed of long-service NCOs and warrant officers,

and it is uncertain how many of them can be spared to act as small-unit leaders in special warfare forces. Most of that burden will have to fall on conscripted NCOs, who are given a six-month course at the start of their two-year service.

Soviet junior officers, whose training is equivalent to that of American officers, are frequently criticized in the Soviet press for lacking technical and tactical skills, or for sticking to the letter of plans that have come down from higher levels, rather than using their own initiative.

The Soviets have devised their normal platoon and company tactics so that these failings will not be crucial, but on special operations, junior officers must be able to function independently of their superiors. However, because of the Soviet army's size it may well be that officers and men assigned to such units will not be locked into textbook tactics.

The various Soviet special warfare units' missions are similar to those of their U.S. counterparts. Each has a different specific task and can operate either independently or in cooperation with other forces.

Airborne Forces

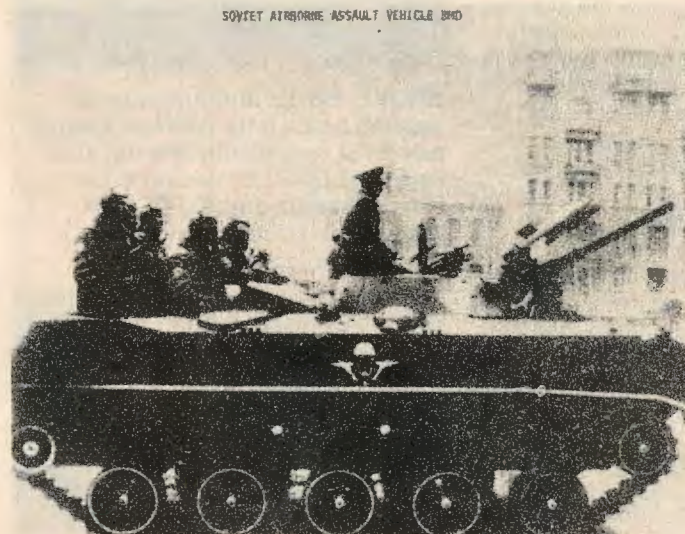
The Soviets have eight airborne divisions with a strength of approximately 8,000 men each. The airborne divisions, the long arm of Soviet power, and the naval infantry (See "Black Berets," SOF, February '80) give the Soviets the capability to exert a military presence beyond the Eurasian landmass. In addition to this global, strategic role, the airborne divisions can seize strategic objectives by air-dropping or flying in before ground forces invade. For example, the 103rd Guards Airborne Division took Prague airport and other key objectives in Czechoslovakia during the Soviet invasion of 1968, and the 105th Guards Airborne Division secured the vital airfield at Kabul while ground forces crossed the Afghan border in 1979.

In a full-scale war, Soviet paratroopers would drop in *desants*, from battalion to division in size, behind enemy lines, not only to hold until relieved, but to seek and destroy headquarters, rear-area facilities, airfields and nuclear weapons. The Rhine and Weser bridges, NATO headquarters and similar high-priority installations would be possible targets of such *desants*.

The invasion of Afghanistan marked the first time Soviet airborne divisions have been sent into combat in a Third World nation. It may well not be the last. In 1973, the Soviet threat to intervene in the Arab-Israeli war was backed up by flying the 103rd Guards Airborne Division to transit camps at Belgrade Airport, in range of the crisis area. In 1978-79, a series of long-range airlifts, bringing airborne divisions to Ethiopia for training, helped refine Soviet long-range capability. The Soviet paratrooper, with his blue beret and striped shirt, may soon become

a common sight in the world's trouble spots.

Unlike the U.S. 82nd Airborne, Soviet airborne divisions are heavily mechanized. Approximately a third of their infantry — one company per battalion or one regiment per division — can be mounted in BMP airborne infantry combat vehicles, armed with *Sagger* anti-tank guided missiles and 73mm cannon. Like the 82nd, all Soviet airborne units — with the exception of the 106th Guards Airborne at Tula-Ryazan, which has a training role — are at high degrees of readiness. In peacetime, they are under the direct command of the minister of defense rather than the army high command, making them able to react quickly to carry out the Kremlin's plans. They are, in effect, a semi-autonomous service within the army.



Soviet airborne BMD on parade. Combat vehicle is armed with *Sagger* missiles, visible on launch rail above 73mm Model 2A20 smooth-bore gun. Photo: U.S. Army

Also like the 82nd, the Soviet airborne has pathfinder and reconnaissance units. Each division has a recon company and each regiment a recon platoon. They are trained in precision jumping and use steerable canopies. Each Soviet airborne division has, in addition to three airborne regiments, one battalion each of 122mm howitzers, 122mm multiple-rocket launchers, 85mm assault guns, 23mm anti-aircraft guns, engineers and other support elements.

Non-Divisional Airborne Forces

These forces include paratroopers, support elements (equivalent to the U.S. XVIII Airborne Corps troops) and independent combat units (equivalent to the U.S. 1/509th Airborne based in Italy). They are on the spot for contingencies that need a rapid reaction force. The Soviet independent airborne regiment at Neurippen, East Germany, has a similar role.

Supplementing these forces are the airborne forces of the Warsaw Pact armies — the Poles have a full division and the Czechs a brigade; the other states field battalions.

The nearest Western equivalent to the naval infantry is the French *Fusilier Marins*. Although they share the same amphibious assault role as the U.S. Marine Corps, Soviet naval infantry regiments are basically standard, motorized rifle regiments with specialized training — and without specialized equipment. They are thus very different from the flexible, mission-oriented U.S. Marine Air-Ground Task Groups.

The five Soviet Naval Infantry regiments (not brigades, as frequently reported) are located with the Baltic, Black Sea and Arctic Fleets, and two with the Pacific Fleet. Due to the increase in Soviet naval amphibious capability, its naval infantry can be transported anywhere in the world. A significant feature of many recent crises — the Middle East in 1973,

Angola in 1974, Somalia in 1978 and the Indian Ocean in 1980 — has been the presence of at least one Soviet amphibious warfare ship as part of its local naval task force, hovering off the coast to provide instant intervention capability if needed.

So far, the naval infantry — whose tough fighting and black uniforms earned them the nickname "The Black Death" from the Germans in World War II — have never come ashore. But they give Soviet leaders a capability formerly enjoyed by the West alone: the ability to send in forces during a crisis, much as the U.S. Marines supported the Lebanese government in 1958 and the Royal Marines landed to prevent an invasion of Kuwait in 1961.

In a general war, the naval infantry would be used — as the airborne — in *desants*. It would seize and hold straits, bases and other objectives *important* to the Soviet navy, or destroy enemy facilities. Keflavik in Iceland, with its vital airfield, may well be a key objective, as would be bases in Norway, Denmark, Malta or any place where the allies have important installations.

Each Soviet naval infantry regiment has

a reconnaissance company. Equivalent to U.S. Marine recon units, they stress active patrolling and information-gathering rather than passive surveillance. Unlike the U.S. Marines, the naval infantry relies exclusively on standard army APCs, which double as landing craft. Each regiment has three naval infantry battalions, a tank battalion, a rocket-launcher battery and recon, anti-tank, anti-aircraft, engineer and other weapons companies.

The Poles have a brigade-size, army amphibious-assault division and two naval infantry battalions, the East Germans an amphibious brigade and the Rumanians a battalion to add to Soviet capability.

Naval Infantry Commandos

Soviet naval infantry commandos — equivalent to the U.S. Navy SEALs (See SOF, March, April '79) — have only four platoons, one with each of the four Soviet fleets. They are normally deployed in small teams. Apparently, all personnel are trained in scuba diving and are airborne-qualified (as are many of those in naval infantry recon companies). They may be inserted by airdrop, helicopter, or from submarines by swimming or rubber boat. They apparently will be used for traditional commando-type missions, chiefly for destruction of high-priority targets. It is believed they have been trained in the use of limpet-type mines against anchored ships.

Long-Range Reconnaissance Companies

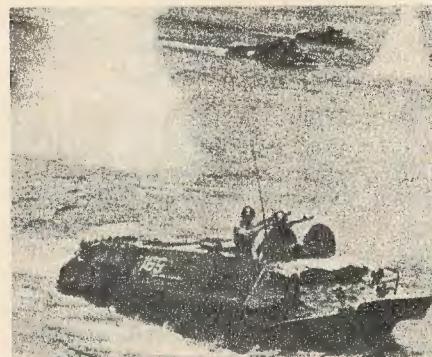
Like the U.S. Army's "LURPs" in Vietnam, the reconnaissance battalion of each Soviet tank and motorized rifle division, and each Front (Army) or Army (equivalent to a U.S. Corps) intelligence battalion has a long-range reconnaissance company. A company is made up of five teams; each with a lieutenant, five NCOs and privates, plus an HQ section consisting of the company commander and two enlisted men. Soviet LURPs may range in size from a single team to a full company. They may range 50 to 350 kilometers in advance of Soviet main forces. They can be inserted by helicopter or parachute, or by motorized scout cars, using infiltration to penetrate the enemy rear. These armored cars have a variety of heavy and light machine guns. Many carry radio-direction-finding equipment to locate enemy radios, while their own radios transmit information back in speeded-up bursts. LURPs are usually lightly armed and seek to avoid combat unless required to gather information or destroy a high-priority target. Patrols carry extra camouflage equipment to allow them to conceal themselves, or, alternatively, they may avoid combat by dispersing and regrouping.

The highest priority LURP mission in a

full-scale war will be to locate enemy nuclear weapons and delivery systems and, if required, attack and destroy them, especially if surprise can be achieved. LURPs may also attack headquarters,



ABOVE: Soviet airborne trooper, wearing new winter uniform, carries new AKD assault rifle. **Photo: U.S. Army.** **BELOW:** Soviet airborne trooper stands guard with AKD assault rifle. Notice distinctive camouflage jacket.



Amphibious BTR-60PKs swim ashore under shellfire. Armed with 12.7mm MGs, Soviet APCs are adequate for river crossings but lack capacity of USMC LTVP-7s.

communications facilities and other objectives, or stage raids and ambushes to capture prisoners or equipment. Information gathering, however, remains their primary mission.

Long-range reconnaissance companies are elite units and their personnel receive more thorough training and conditioning than the average Soviet soldier. Unarmed combat, wilderness survival and resistance to interrogation are all taught. Their assault rifles and pistols are often equipped with silencers and flash suppressors.

Raydoviki

Raydoviki correspond to U.S. Ranger battalions. There are between three and six *Raydoviki* brigades — *Brigada Osobovo Naznachaniya*, special-operations brigades — each of three or four battalions and an air-transport support unit. Each battalion includes several *Raydoviki* companies, 40-50 strong, divided into six squads, as well as anti-tank guided missile and mortar companies, which use 122mm rockets fired from man-portable mounts, similar to those used by the communists in Southeast Asia. Wheeled transport includes GAZ-66 light trucks and GAZ-69 jeeps.

Raydoviki would probably operate in company- or battalion-size forces, assigned to any mission requiring an unconventional-warfare capability. They will also be used to train partisans behind enemy lines. Frequently heliborne, and probably jump-qualified, *Raydoviki* seem particularly well-suited to a limited-war situation. Although none have so far been reported in action, their partisan-training mission makes them a potential cadre for guerrilla groups.

Vysotniki

The *Vysotniki* are the Soviet equivalent of the U.S. Special Forces. They normally operate in squad-size teams for deep airborne sabotage, reconnaissance and intelligence penetrations behind enemy lines. They are trained in HALO (high-altitude, low-opening) parachute techniques. The *Vysotniki* are organized into a number of special-operations brigades, which, like U.S. Special Forces Groups, are administrative rather than combat formations. Unlike the *Raydoviki*, the *Vysotniki* would not be deployed in company- or battalion-sized units, but only as special teams. These units would obviously give the Soviets a strong, unconventional-warfare capability. Unlike Soviet line units, small teams of tough, independent soldiers could easily adapt to a strange battlefield while maintaining a politically-desirable low profile.

GRU Diversionary Troops

There is no U.S. equivalent to the GRU diversionary troops. GRU, the main Mili-

tary Intelligence Directorate, has espionage agents throughout the world, working with the better-known KGB. In addition to its agents, the GRU has a number of "diversionary battalions." These units include both male and female soldiers, who often work in civilian clothing, infiltrating an objective in peacetime. GRU troops, both in uniform and in disguise, seized Prague Airport in 1968 so paratroopers could fly in unhindered. GRU troops are reportedly trained in a wide variety of intelligence and commando tasks and in the use of Soviet and foreign weapons. GRU units could infiltrate a country prior to a Soviet attack, and then surprise headquarters or vital installations, or eliminate key enemy personnel. GRU diversionary battalions have an effective potential far beyond their numbers.

MVD Special Troops

No U.S. equivalent exists for the MVD — the armed forces of the minister of the interior — or their special troops. They are armed with standard army equipment — tanks and APCs — but their mission is to maintain order inside the Soviet Union. If civil disorder or large-scale dissidence occurs, MVD troops quell it. If, as during the rioting at Rostov in 1963, the MVD proves insufficient, the regular army is sent in. MVD special troops probably act

as a national SWAT team and anti-terrorist force. A highly-skilled unit that is perhaps modeled on West Germany's *Grenzschutzgruppe 9* (See SOF, March '80), its missions can take it into foreign nations where the Soviet army is fighting; so these units may yet appear in Afghanistan.

Warsaw Pact Special Forces

The Warsaw Pact armies contribute to Soviet unconventional-warfare capability. The East German 40th and 5th "Willi Sanger" commando battalions are based at Prora on the Baltic island of Rugen. One or both battalions could be dropped behind NATO lines wearing West German uniforms. They might be joined by Soviet units, dressed to impersonate British, American and Danish troops.

Reportedly, another East German force, estimated at two companies, is equipped with M48 tanks and M113 APCs. These vehicles, painted with West German markings, are stationed in southern East Germany. They were probably obtained from Vietnam.

Other Warsaw Pact nations also have battalion-size special-forces units. The Czech 7th Airborne Battalion at Holleschau has a special-forces role, as do several Polish units. Although the enthusiasm of these units towards their Soviet allies may be open to question, they

are all well-trained, extremely tough troops.

From the wide range of Soviet special forces, it is obvious that the USSR takes unconventional, limited-war-fighting capability seriously. These forces enable the Soviets to project their military force worldwide and fight any type of enemy in any type of terrain. If the Soviet military trend of recent years — greater emphasis on conventional warfare and fighting beyond the Eurasian landmass — continues, then these forces will assume an even greater importance. They also have an important role in the context of a war with NATO. The Soviets count on them to create a second front in the enemy rear, operating in conjunction with forward detachments of armored forces. In theory, this will be the tactic that threatens the stability of NATO's defense. Even in nuclear war, small groups of well-trained soldiers will be a potent force, considering the dispersion of forces required by nuclear weapons. The Soviets understand that a few men attacking a nuclear weapons storage site, a headquarters, an airfield or the vast parks of prepositioned U.S. Army equipment can have more effect on the ultimate result than divisions. The unconventional threat is a powerful one.



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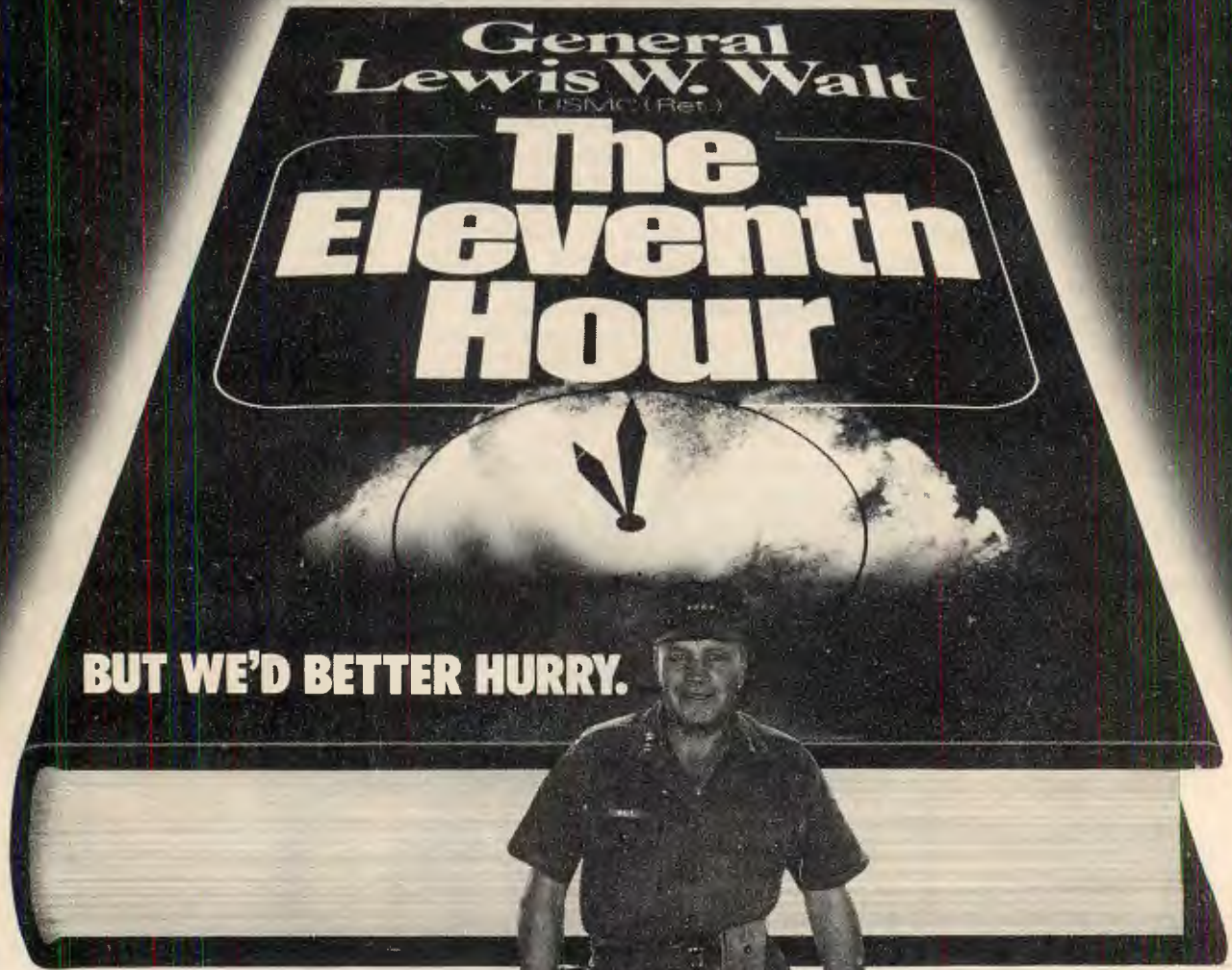
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An Illustrated History of the Conflict in Southeast Asia

By Bernard C. Nalty

Forward by

General William Westmoreland

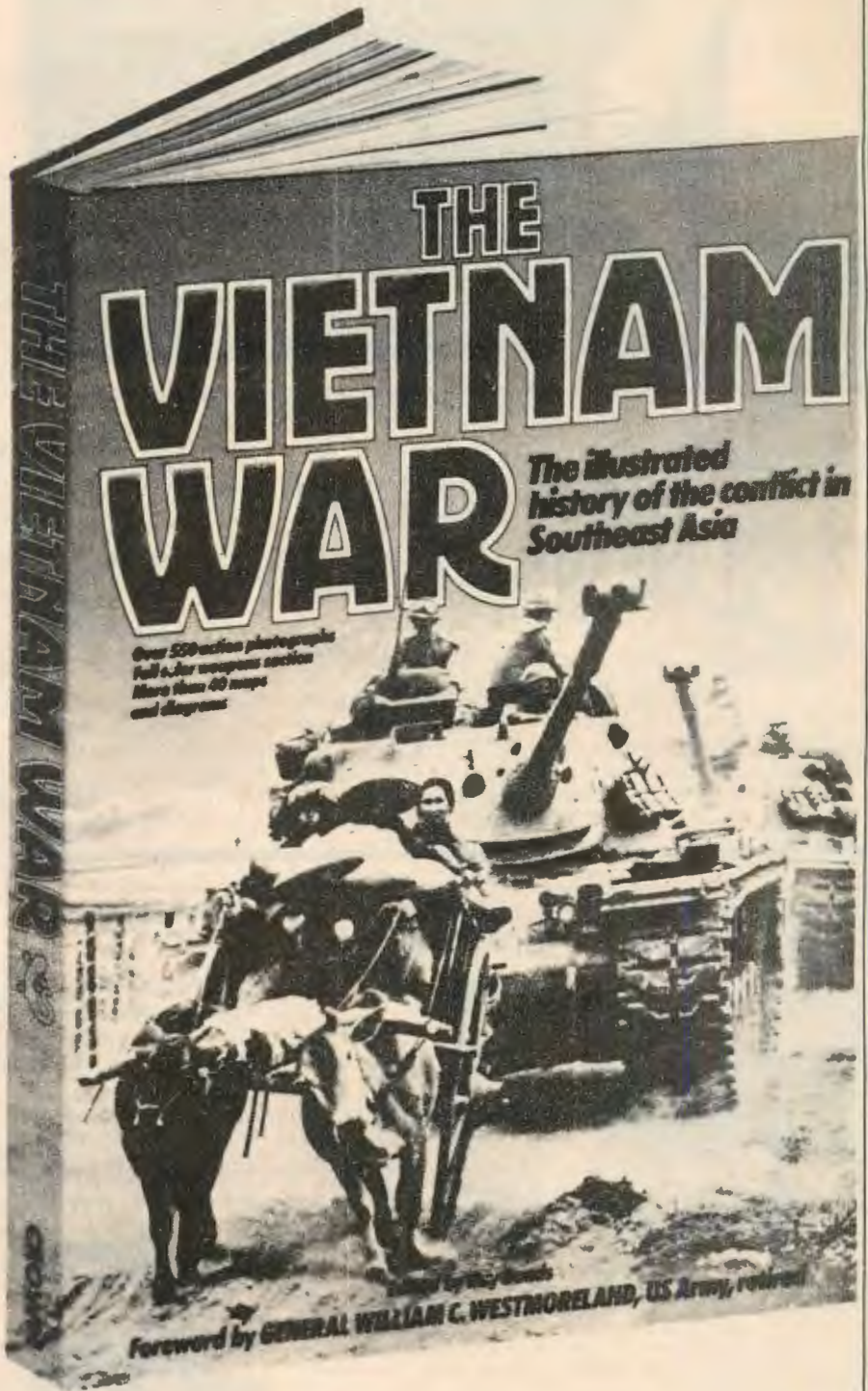
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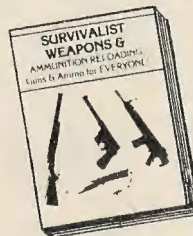
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STEELE ON KNIVES

Continued from page 14

in two). Of course, if you are really expecting trouble or carry a pistol on duty, you should have both.

I don't recommend boot carry for the reasons you mention. The most convenient, though not necessarily the most concealed, position is in the right coat or pants pocket.

Q I have not read anything about Randall knives in your column, but, then, I am a new subscriber. What is your opinion of Randall knives versus others? Can you tell me where to write for a Randall catalog?

C.P.,

APO, NY 09405

A You must be the newest of subscribers, because Randall knives have often starred in my column as well as in my book, *Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting* (Phoenix Press, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306). Bo Randall's address is Dept. SOF, Box 1988, Orlando, FL 32802, and his catalog was 50¢ the last time I checked.

Randall knife quality is excellent, but Bo's real claim to fame is that he was first with just about every significant custom-knife innovation. His Model 3 hunting knife was the first modern custom hunter, starting back in the 1930s. His Model 1 fighting knife and Model 2 fighting stiletto were the standard by which all knives were judged in World War II. His Model 18 survival knife was the first hollow-handle combat knife. He was the first to use micarta for a handle material, and he even invented the sub-hilt (which he called an "inner hilt," and which he dropped from his line as too expensive to produce and as having no advantage over the choil design). His 5000-knife museum contains numerous experimental models of his own, which were "one of a kind," no longer available even on special order.



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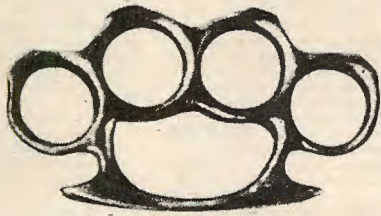
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 18

A British police inspector in the Royal Hong Kong Police Force had been subject to investigations into homosexuality within the police force and/or government circles. He was about to be apprehended for such activities, and on the day prior to this, drew a .38 police revolver from the police armory.

On the appointed day, the arresting officers broke into his apartment and found him dead with five bullet wounds to the chest and heart, the weapon on the floor and a suicide note nearby. There were no signs of forced entry and the flat was locked from the inside.

The coroner and ballistics experts were all baffled and called it "suicide." The jury recorded an "open verdict" to keep the case open should there be further evidence.

Murder or suicide? Motives for murder are evident, but how was it done? Could a man shoot himself five times in the chest? Most suicides shoot themselves in the head.

The final question — should all policemen contemplating suicide possess .45s?

R.A.H.

Kowloon, Hong Kong

A *I am very much obliged to you for making me aware of the MacLennan case. Like those called in as experts in this matter, I had never heard of a case of suicide by multiple gunshot wounds — but I have now.*

Granting that an open verdict was rendered, the only facts ruling against suicide were those producing simple incredulity. Is it possible for a man to keep on shooting himself after delivering the first wound? And not just once, but four times.

Well, I've never before heard of such a thing (and I am a professional student of such matters) but anyone who has studied gunshot wounds at any length will have to admit that the act is indeed possible. Comparatively few pistols are very powerful. They will all kill, but not many will flatten a man with one hit. I think it was a suicide.

As to your question, police officers (or others) contemplating suicide should not be issued any sort of firearm. Shooting oneself is noisy, messy and inconsiderate.

This month Ken Hackathorn discusses belly guns and evaluates several top wheelgun contenders, opting for the S&W M-49 Bodyguard.

POPULARITY of the two-inch-barrel, small-frame .38 special revolver is widespread. Over the years I have owned a number of them, but never really settled on one model that suited my taste. I am convinced that the .38 belly gun serves only one role as a self-defense sidearm: a hideout, back-up second gun.

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I know many people choose these little revolvers for their primary weapon. However, popularity of the .38 snubie for general defensive use does not make it a good choice. Many merchants, businessmen and security personnel prefer the little S&W Chief Special and Colt Cobra for their sidearm, as do many police officers who carry these little blasters while working plain-clothes or off-duty.

All these individuals who carry small, concealable snubbies do so from fear of trouble, not expectation of it. If one does not expect to get in a fight, then the little .38 special wheelgun may be ideal. If he expects a serious social encounter and arms himself with anything less efficient than a full-size duty revolver or service pistol, then he has made his first tactical error.

I believe in a small-frame .38 special revolver for a back-up gun, to be used only if my duty arm is out of action or unavailable. More lawmen are now searching for a practical back-up piece. Although some experts recommend the various .22, .35, .32 or .380 caliber, small-size, easily concealable handguns for cops to use as a second gun, I wouldn't care to stake my life on anything smaller than a .38 special. In fact, the .38 special cartridge in one of the better two-inch revolvers such as the Chief Special series of S&W guns or Colt D-frame guns like the Agent or Cobra are the modern-day equivalents of last century's derringer.

So my modern "derringer" must have certain characteristics to make it worthwhile. It must be constructed of quality materials and be properly designed so as to have minimum bulk and weight and be easily concealed. Its speed for getting into action and ease of firing are critical. Therefore, my choice has narrowed to a revolver with shrouded hammer. Some gunshop commandos recommend cutting the hammer spur off a standard, exposed-hammer model revolver to aid in snag-free operation. My gun must be capable of firing from the pocket as well, if someone tries to grasp it from my hand.

The only guns worth considering are the Colt D-frame revolvers such as the Detective Special, Cobra and Agent, each with the optional hammer shroud. The other currently available gun is easily the ugliest revolver on the market today: the Smith & Wesson M-49 Bodyguard.

For easy access and top-flight operation, the Bodyguard is my choice. While it holds only five rounds — compared to the Colt's six shots — it's a worthwhile compromise. The gun is more compact than the Colt D-series. Also, the Colt's current price is much higher. My S&W M-49 Bodyguard is an all-steel, blued-steel revolver. It started out with a rather stiff action and rough trigger. The serrations on the trigger's face caused problems, since they hinder the finger's natural



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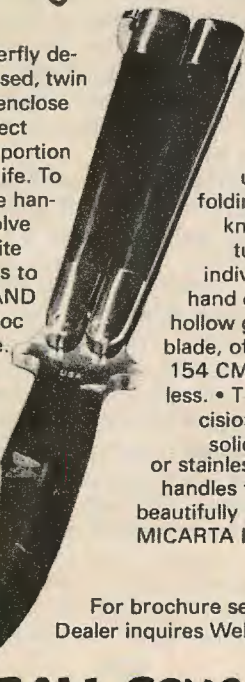
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movement during the double-action firing stroke.

I first ground off the serrations and polished the surface mirror-smooth. This contributed to a much smoother double-action pull. Next, I cleaned up the action and installed a S&W K-38 Single-Action Kit rebound spring in place of the M-49's stock one. This reduces the stiffness of the double-action pull and allows for a positive trigger return. A pair of smooth, S&W rosewood stocks replaced the factory checkered ones. I added a grip adapter from Tyler T-Grip to provide a solid grip without compromising concealment. (Custom stocks help in handling the small guns while firing, but they also make concealment difficult.) After these changes, the Bodyguard performed much better, but some problems still remained.

These problems centered in two areas, both of which could be solved with one change. The issue M-49 comes with a two-inch barrel and narrow sights, which are difficult to pick up in a hurry. I know most experts claim these little guns are for close range only and pointing is the only thing that matters. Well, I am convinced that the only shot with a .38 that will stop an attacker is one to the eye socket or ear canal. The brain or spine shot is the only real dropper.

If I need fast yet precise shot placement, I want a good sight index for my flash-sight picture. With the .38 special ammo necessary for serious social intercourse, recoil and control of the standard two-inch barrel are poor. Also, while one doesn't expect to need to reload a back-up gun, extraction of empties from a two-inch J-frame S&W is terribly slow, due to the extractor rod's short stroke. Normally, one must pick them out by hand.

My solution to the problem was simple. Just remove the original two-inch barrel and replace it with a three-inch heavy barrel intended for the M-36 revolver. I also changed the extractor rod and center pin to get a belly gun with it all. This new three-inch heavy barrel has a 1/8-inch ramp front sight. Mill out the old rear-sight slot in the rear of the frame to match. The new sights are low-profile, snag-free and fast to use. The heavy barrel gives very good balance and dampens recoil from .38 screamers. As a bonus, the three-inch barrel offers a full-stroke extractor that dumps fired cases out in one punch of the extractor rod.

Carried under a jacket in one of Lou Alessi's underarm "Bodyguard Model" shoulder holsters, this "Super Snubbie" is comfortable and fast into action. Carried in the right-hand pocket of a tuffy jacket, the piece is handy for walking up on suspects without appearing gun-happy. If checking a vehicle in a traffic stop, keep the S&W Bodyguard in the pocket with the hand on it and ready. One can walk up to the suspect car prepared to shoot if necessary, and the gun can be fired right through the pocket. If the check turns out

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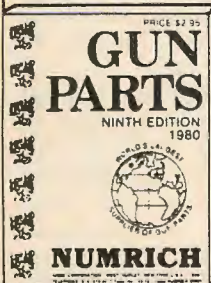
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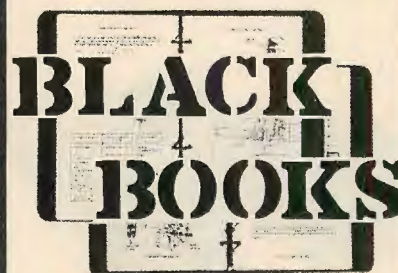
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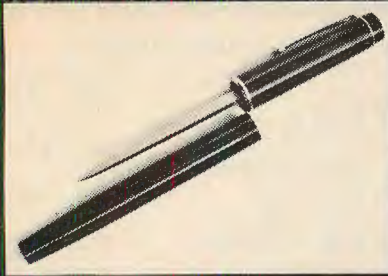
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all clear, the public will not be alarmed at the sight of gun play.

During summer months when concealment is more of a problem, I prefer to use a good ankle holster under the full-cut leg of a pair of uniform trousers. Bill Rogers makes a secure, comfortable ankle holster that works well. Carrying a .38 snubie in the pants pocket is both uncomfortable and slow to draw. For traveling it can be carried in a lady's purse without undue bulk, and this size wheelgun is easy for a woman to handle.

Whether for duty use or personal defense, use the meanest load you can handle and get good hits with. Don't worry about wearing out the gun with these loads. You won't have to fire enough in a fight to worry about it.

For practice, stick to mild loads only; the gun will last longer and not shoot loose. A steady diet of +P.38 special ammo will de-tune a small-frame gun like this in short order. My "Super Snubie" S&W Bodyguard is presently stocked with Secret Service "Q" loads and they will do the job. If you find that you can control and hit accurately only with mild, mid-range wadcutter ammo, then shoot carefully and put them right in the eye or up the nose. Draw quickly — shoot carefully.



SHOT

Continued from page 28

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At the hospital, Officer Cook was listed in good condition with a severe bruise over his heart. The Kevlar vest, which stopped the .22-caliber long-rifle slug, was credited with saving his life.

Some doctors speculated that although the bullet did not penetrate his chest, the bruise was severe enough to kill him. They believe Cook survived because his heart-beat was in the position of its lowest volume of blood when the bullet struck. Had the heartbeat been at its greatest volume of blood, the heart could have ruptured from the impact.

Cook spent only three days in the hospital for observation and tests. After a few days of doctor-ordered rest at home, he returned to work.

Today, four years later, Officer Barry Cook still patrols the same district. Every day he drives by the Holiday Inn.

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FLAK

Continued from page 8

**UZIEL GAL NOT
ISRAEL GALIL ...**

Sirs:

In your SHOT Show article (SOF, June '80) on p. 35 you stated Uzi Gal (should read Uziel) was a designer of the .223 Galil ARM and SAR. This isn't so. The Galil was designed by Israel Galil with an assist from Yaacov Lior, deputy director of Israeli Military Industries.

Respectfully,
George J. Skoviera
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Thanks for catching our typo. See also our test and evaluation of the Galil in the first issue of SOF (Summer '75). — The Eds.

**ABSURDITY OF CALIBER
CONTROVERSY NOTED ...**

Sirs:

Month after month, the arguments over the relative merit (or lack of same) of .45 ACP vs. 9mm and 5.56mm vs. 7.62mm rage on. Surely there must be other readers who, like me, were once amused by partisan rantings, but after a long ton of spilled printer's ink are now perturbed by the sheer space the argument takes up.

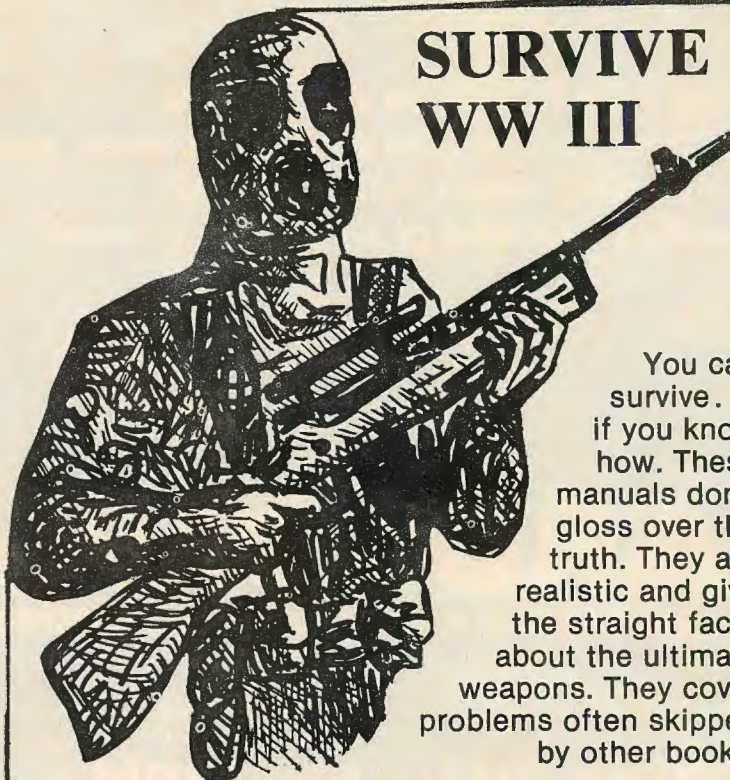
Consider this: in four different forms of military/paramilitary service, only once have I had a significant choice in weaponry, and that was for a short-term, rather specialized op. I have worked in different times and places with all four of the calibers in question and have found that any of them will deliver the goods. There are certainly individual weapons I do not care for, but when used as intended, I found little fault with their cartridges.

The central point is this: the quarter-mastering of weapons is not often within the sphere of influence of the individual trooper, and although all the accusations of shortcomings of a widely used caliber cannot do any good, they certainly can do a great deal of evil.

My U.S. military service (USMC) included 1965-66-67 tours in Vietnam. On my last tour I was shocked and disgusted to find both Marine and Army replacement troops demoralized, dispirited and broken by lack of confidence in their ability to successfully engage VC and NVA with the 5.56mm round. The rear-echelon "ice cream commandos" had convinced them that the "mouse gun" would get them surely killed. This, coupled with the commie-inspired and media-spread myth of the invincible, invisible enemy had them believing they could not win. That sort of rumor-mongering, my friends, is *criminal*. Thousands of morally-crushed young men were sent to their deaths at the hands of a less-trained, less well-equipped and supported, less physically-conditioned, but more confident enemy.

Readers, any and each of these rounds have their capabilities and limitations, and

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you can no more eliminate one from the world military scene than change the tides. The only rational answer is to think of these positive and negative factors in terms of the duration of your operations (as effecting personal/unit logistics), the small-unit tactics of your own force and that of your enemy, the typical opposing equipment/barrier hardware/ancillary gear including their calibers with respective advantages and disadvantages, availability and dissemination, the past fire-fight history (or "contact profile") of your enemy, average sighting encounter distance, response to fire, etc.

Facing troops whose issue weapon affords them ability to deliver stand-off fire exceeding your effective range only dictates that your tactics will conform to emphasize surprise, small-unit flexibility and point-to-point close-range delivery of a superior concentration of fire. If the situation were reversed, you would of course maximize that advantage of range and penetration. I venture to say that if my issue weapon were a damned umbrella, I would waste precious little time lamenting the superior qualities of the tire iron and immediately develop tactics to favor a stealthy assault-by-bumbershoot!

I know of no weapons family without both strengths and weaknesses. Friends, let's put this issue to rest. The 9mm, .45 ACP, 5.56mm and 7.62mm are facts of life and will continue to be for a number of years. Myself? Under most circumstances, I would prefer to be armed with .45 ACP and 7.62mm, but for my last two times out of the cage, on the first the issued longarm was 5.56mm, the sidearm .45 ACP; on the second, 7.62mm and 9mm. So, purists, reconcile that! All performed within their means — and well.

Let's have more research and development to further explore the capabilities of all four of these widely-dispersed rounds as well as the common Red rounds — and set aside the counterproductive diatribes. We will all benefit thereby, and in the process reinforce (or reinstall) that most precious quality of the superior soldier: a multi-faceted, open-minded, change-oriented, opportunistic, supremely Machiavellian attitude.

Your sincerely,
P. Van Zyl

San Diego, California

Normally we are only able to print shorter letters in FLAK. However, because Mr. Van Zyl's complete argument was so cogent and to the point and because we agree with its premises and conclusions, we have printed it in full. — The Eds.



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Continued from page 24

tempting to enter the U.S. to engage in terrorist activity and bringing with them supplies, film and other propaganda material."

Another directive from INS informs interrogators that "Iranians shall not be questioned as to whether they are pro- or anti-Shah, Khomeini or USA." Agents who have sought advice from the Iran Task Force at the State Department have been told "to avoid any incident."

As a result an Iranian who showed up at JFK in New York in March was allowed to enter this country even after a military-like field manual that told how to make bombs and mines, field strip an Israeli Uzi machine gun and use a wide range of other weapons was found in his luggage.

If that were not bad enough, one Iranian showed up without the required visa and was sent on to Canada. In his luggage they found 35 photographs taken of American hostages in the Tehran embassy. The FBI was contacted and they declined to even look at the photos. UPI obtained them.

The State Department does not even know if the visa-issuing equipment in the embassy was destroyed before the takeover. The militants who now control the embassy could be issuing visas to *their friends for their purposes.*

SOF believes Iranians entering this country with military manuals and propaganda should be turned back or taken to the nearest "slammer."



GET TOUGH

Continued from page 43

orado River. Additionally, there are a handful of more primitive routes, but these are known only to those ardent canyoners who've painstakingly worked out the intricate puzzles on foot. Unless you've been down them before, you'd be hard pressed to find your way up through the vertical, overhanging cliffs and benches before consuming all your water.

From my position, it's another 12 miles to the well-known South Kaibab Trail, the next straightforward exit route. Assuming I'd survived the bite of the Grand Canyon rattlesnake, a toxin far more potent than the western Diamondback's, I'd have tried to work my way back up one of the Grandview's spur trails.

Suddenly awake, I pick up my pace, hoping to reach the South Kaibab by early afternoon. But the serpentine Tonto is not as flat, nor as straightforward as it appears on my Vishnu, Bright Angel and Havasupai Point maps. It cuts behind all the primary travertines, slithers around every little side drainage, frequently

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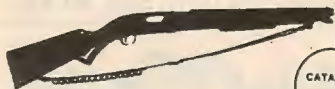
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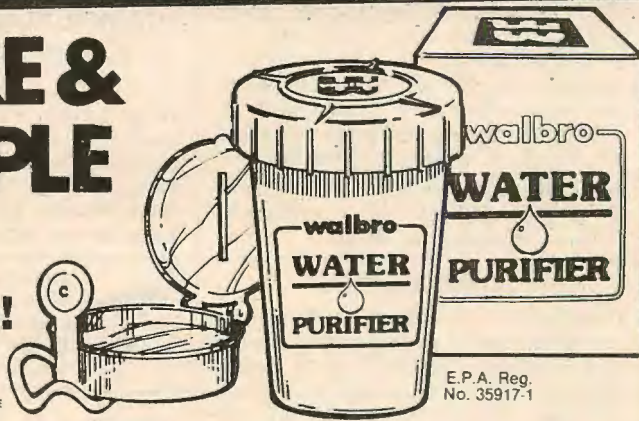
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climbs and descends abruptly and often bristles with rocks. It's more of a route than a trail.

To make matters worse, it's frequently trod by several hundred feral burros. And their senseless spur trails, which look every bit as good as the Tonto, usually lead to enervating and exasperating cul-de-sacs.

A general malaise overtakes me by the time I cross desolate Cremation Canyon to the South Kaibab. The thought of running another five miles in the stifling heat to Bright Angel drop is repulsive. Granted, the only way to cover vast distances on foot is to dissociate oneself from the reality of what he's doing. There's nothing more boring to think about than the act of running. But I've long since run out of concepts and fantasies to occupy my mind. I've seen all the wretched Tonto and run through all the flies and burro shit I want to for a day.

So I crawl under a boulder and lie there lizard-like in the shade, waiting for the day's heat to pass.

The half-hour snooze — a drift between consciousness and preunconsciousness — is enough of a respite. It provides the needed transition to break this day's work into two distinct segments. I get up and start ambling toward Pipe Spring, the first reliable water since Lonetree Canyon.

I'm suffering from fatigue and heat cramps by the time I hit Pipe Spring. So I immerse my entire body in a shallow pool of running water to cool my overheated inner core. Sitting there like a frog on a lily pad, I keep promising myself all I have to do is reach Bright Angel and I get to turn the engine off. That's all I want to do now, turn the bloody engine off.

My resupply team has other plans for me, however. Dick Yetman, a noted Arizona survival expert and photographer, pours two ice cold Mexican beers down me and starts pushing me toward Horn Creek before I have the opportunity to wipe the caked salt from my brow. Moments later, the carbohydrates take hold, and I lope the next two miles as if I'm jogging in a city park.

Continued on page 83

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I have been aware of the Marines' search for a suitable scope for the past few years, and at this year's NRA show I got to see and examine the winner. Unfortunately, civilians can't get one as there are no plans to sell it on the open market at this time.

Made by John Unertl Optical Company (Dept. SOF, 3551-5 East St., Pittsburgh, PA 15214), the scope is approximately 11 inches long and weighs 32 ounces. Of all-steel construction, it seems to be a durable son-of-a-gun. The elevation knob is over one inch in diameter with large cutouts for easy gripping. Each of the 10 positive clicks of adjustment changes the scope's range in 100-yard increments out to 1,000 yards.

To sight in the scope for a particular ammo lot before going in the field, adjust the fine-tuning ring just below the main elevation knob. Once you have sighted in, estimate the range, dial the yardage and fire. The large windage knob is held in its desired position by an allen-head screw. Once set, it is loaded down and the shooter uses Kentucky windage.

This scope does not have any range-estimation capability, as does the M21 system which uses a Frankfort-Arsenal modification of a Redfield telescope called the Adjustable Ranging Telescope (ART). The Army is replacing the ARTs with Leatherwood-made ART-2s. I personally would like a range curve similar to the SVD Russian system or scaled like the RPG-7. Because the Marines train extensively on range estimation, they feel no need for extras — and there's no arguing with success. One of the reasons why their sniper program is respected and feared comes from their use of this weapon system.

The crosshairs are four heavy, straight posts that change into fine crosshairs, each leg of which has four fine dots 1mm apart. They are used for leads when shooting at moving targets, and they can aid in range estimation. The scope has 10X magnification with an 11-foot field of view at 100 yards.

As of this date, 25 of these scopes have been delivered to the Marine Corps out of an initial order of 600. They cost \$621 apiece — not cheap, but what's the value of a Russian colonel caught in their crosshairs?

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scope. They want the extra-accuracy edge afforded by the custom-bolt gun and are willing to give up the M14's greater fire power to achieve it. Both Army and Marine options are legitimate — although different — solutions to the problem.

I can tell you one thing: with the right man behind the Marine system I can guarantee he will get consistent first-shot hits out to or beyond 1,000 yards, a fact that enemy field commanders and key personnel should remember before they discover that the battlefield just isn't safe for them anymore.



TOP: Left-hand view shows Marine sniper scope's large elevation knob. Scope is mounted on Redfield rings and base.

ABOVE: Top, New Marine system with camouflaged fiberglass stock. Center, Redfield-equipped Remington 700 with wood stock. Bottom, Remington winter rifle with fiberglass stock and Redfield scope.

GET TOUGH

Continued from page 80

April 27, Day 3

I've purposely planned the third day to be a short one in order to allow my body to recover. But even the 20 miles from Horn Creek to Boucher Camp seems beyond me. It's 8:30 a.m.; the sun is beginning another rock-searing climb, and my resupply team is becoming justifiably impatient. But I feel like I've been eaten by a wolf and shit over a cliff. My legs don't want to move, I've got the dry heaves and my ankle feels like a ball and chain.

The beer and the aspirin don't help the pain. Every step I take toward The Inferno feels like I'm running on a throbbing toothache. I feel like packing it in and calling it quits. And I would, but I've seen that movie before. There's nothing to return to but defeat. Mule-headed tenacity will be the key.

Still, it's one thing to be chased by an unseen enemy for days on end to save your life or those of your unit, and another to purposely put yourself in this kind of situation. But it's just this kind of test that most of our society needs. I'm no different. Everything in our culture is so certain, so predictably easy. How often are we called upon to face something that pushes us far beyond our known or self-imposed physical/spiritual limitations.

The pioneers faced and overcame hardships every day. This not only tempered them but was one of the key elements that made our country so great.

I keep hobbling, this time with my bamboo cane to ease the pain. I try to take my mind off it by thinking of John Colter, a mountain trapper. In 1808, Colter was overwhelmed by a large number of Black-foot Indians near Three Forks, Mo. The chief gave him one chance to live: he had to outrun a band of fleet-footed warriors over a five-mile-long course of cactus, rocks, and sagebrush — *barefoot*. He did and spent the next 10 days tramping the 250 miles to Lisa's Fort on the Big Horn River.

In comparison, I don't have it so bad.

I'm still nauseous and light-headed when I stumble into Hermit Creek Camp. So I spend the remainder of the afternoon with climber Brian Gardner, waiting for a food drop. It's the last and most important one between Hermit and South Bass Trail. But there's been some confusion, and the food doesn't show until sundown. It's too late to start for Boucher Creek seven miles distant, today's objective. That means 40 miles of no-man's land tomorrow. If I feel anything like I do today, it's not in the cards.

April 28, Day 4

4:30 a.m. My ankle has recovered, and I know from experience the South Bass is

within striking distance. (I ran 45 miles of forested mountain trail the previous year with the flu as part of my training for this run.) But I'll have to go light to cover that 40 miles of seldom-visited inner canyon wilderness.

I've decided the rucksack is the cause of my heat exhaustion and, ironically, the water purification tablets the source of my nausea and dry heaves. I leave them both behind. I take two bean burros, some candy, one bota bag of water, a space blanket, waterproof matches, a small knife and the Havasupai Point map. It's time to burn the bridges.

I start running long before the sun works on the Tonto. I lope easily the seven miles to Boucher Creek. Last night I would have been forced to hobble the entire distance. Today I fly — R&R does wonders.

The next travertine beyond Boucher is Slate Creek and the subsequent drainages of Agate and Sapphire. They're all running and, the way I feel today, they're easy marks. Still, this is the first day I refuse to look back. I'm thoroughly intimidated by the distance I have to cover by nightfall.

I arrive at Turquoise Canyon at 1:15 p.m., at my physical-collapse point, what marathoners call "hitting the wall." Except for a packet of Gatorade, I consume all my food to restore the glycogen (carbohydrates) in my liver. I bivouac beneath an overhang.

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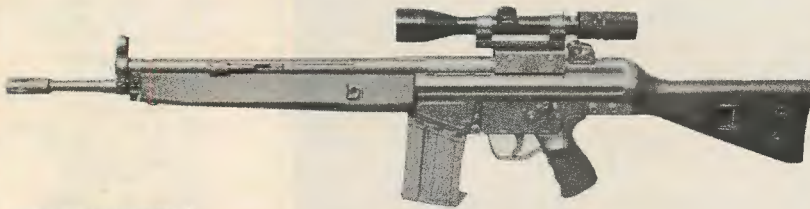
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IT'S YOUR MOVE

by Cincinnatus Osborne

THERE is a "sick joke" making the rounds to the effect that, before the April 27 attempt to rescue the hostages in Iran, the helicopter maintenance people were exhorted to do their best, with the reminder that if the raid were a success, Jimmy Carter would be sure to be re-elected. . . .

The tradition and instinct of the military is to do what they're told to, distrust the press and cover up for the boss when directed. Loyalty up, and loyalty down are, after all, the cement that holds the armed forces together. But loyalty to whom? Normally the Head of State is the embodiment of the Flag and Country to which we swear loyalty, making matters very simple. But when the Head of State is a criminal psychopath like Hitler or a dismal incompetent like Carter, the loyal soldier is placed in an agonizing position. Each member of the military, especially each man and officer who participated in the abortive Iran raid, cannot avoid asking himself the question whether our country can survive another four years of this man's "leadership."

This is not a call to mutiny.

It is a call to loyalty to the future of our country and to tell the truth. There has been a massive cover-up and a lot of disinformation put out concerning the raid. To what extent does this serve the national interest and to what extent does this serve the re-election prospects of Mr. Carter? What good can come for our country from the re-election of a man who has so much to hide?

If you have read this far, don't stop. If you have new, solid information (not gossip, hearsay or rumors), on what really happened that night, especially on what passed on the "hot line" between the White House and Moscow, or on who really decided to abort the raid and why, call us (303-449-3750). We will cover your identity and pass it on to the Congressmen and Senators who are investigating this disaster.

Or you can be a good little boy and keep quiet But don't grumble about the civilians and the politicians if this turkey gets re-elected and the country goes down the pipe. It's your move.



GET TOUGH *Continued*

When I awake at 2:30 p.m., it feels as though rigor mortis has set in. At that point, I realize the remainder of this run will be beyond the physical: what some ultradistance runners call the psychic side of

running; what martial artists know as *ki*, *chi*, or *prana*.

I focus my mind on Shaler Plateau, a scorpion-shaped terrace, and run toward it. I do my best not to allow any other thoughts to enter my mind. I think of it as no more than a visual barrier to run through. It's a technique first practiced by Tibet's running lamas, the *Maheketangs*. During their inhuman, 250-mile nonstop tramps across a 12,000-foot-high *chang tang* (wild land), their point of focus might be a Himalayan Peak one hundred miles distant. Enroute, they'd recite a religious mantra repeatedly until they'd worked themselves into such a trance they'd be totally dissociated from the physical act and pain of running.

Though I'm a crude practitioner at best of their discipline, it's been the key to my running this far across the canyon and will be the key to my finishing it.

"Major domo." I'm not sure where this phrase came from, but as I run toward Shaler, Le Conte Plateau and finally into Ruby Canyon, it plays over and over in my mind like a broken tape. I can't get it out of my head.

It works, though, and the remainder of the afternoon becomes a haze of surrealistic movement, as if I'm outside my body watching somebody else run.

I'm on the verge of hallucinating as I reach Serpentine Canyon. The sun is going down, and I realize it's a good time to bivouac. But I'm so keyed up to reach the South Bass drop, I can't hold myself back. Besides, Serpentine is the last major travertine between me and the South Bass. All I've got to do is control the lights dancing in and out of my peripheral vision, and I'm home.

Thirst is a poor indicator for my body's fluid requirements. So I rehydrate myself with water until I feel like gagging, then refill my bota bag. I no sooner start running again, than I return to a mindless trance of picking 'em up and putting 'em down. It's difficult to explain, but I no longer feel as though I'm separate from the Tonto. I feel as though it's taken hold of me and I'm physically a part of it.

The fluorescent hands on my watch tell me it's 9:17 p.m., when I stumble upon what looks like a backpack. I look closer, and one pack is soon three. I know I'm hallucinating. Out of nowhere come screams. My resupply team.

I've made it.

April 29, Day 5

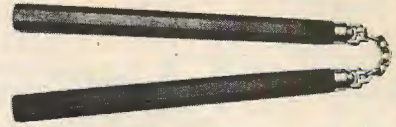
The four of us start up the South Bass and rendezvous with the rest of the support team near the beginning of the Apache Trail. Beer tops fly and we start back slapping one another for what a fine job we've all done, when the canyon displays a debilitating trump card: weather.

Fortunately, mountaineer Stanley Ganey has vastly overestimated the amount of beer a thirsty, foot-weary sup-

NUNCHAKU

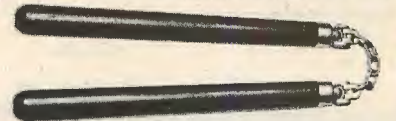
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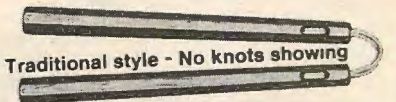


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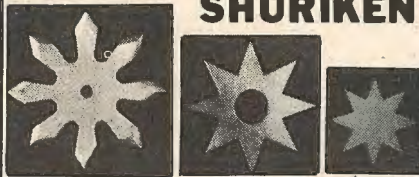
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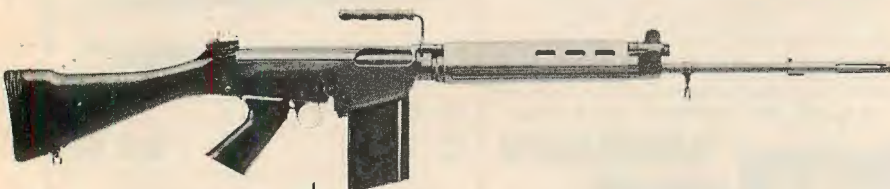
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port team can consume at one sitting. But the storm that's been building for the last two days will not let up. Snow begins falling on the north rim, a bone-chilling rain pelts the mile-high Darwin Plateau and a fierce wind whips and lashes the surrounding redrock escarpments.

We hole up in a large cave. I plan to finish the final leg of the run by the light of the full moon. But the storm does not abate. So we bivouac where we are.

April 30, Day 6

5:00 a.m. It's still raining. The ground is mush. A thick fog limits visibility to a few feet. But it's time to finish what I've begun. I depart.


After so many hours of wandering along the Tonto, the seldom-used Apache Trail across the Esplanade becomes even more difficult to follow. Fortunately, the temperature is cooler, the vegetation lush, and the trail's position just below the very rim of the Canyon is psychologically easier to deal with. It doesn't give me that swallowed-up-whole feeling that being strung out on the Tonto frequently did.

What appeared to be 12 to 14 miles on my Havasupai Point quadrangle map from the South Bass to Apache Point turns out to be over 20. And when I finally reach Apache Point later in the afternoon, the weather dumps on me. I struggle up a series of coconino sandstone chutes awash with water. But the pummeling torrent isn't as unnerving as the booming thunder. I take cover in an eagle-perched cave, until mudslides pouring down on all sides threaten to bury me alive. In my haste, I pull a tendon in my left leg while crawling along a narrow escape route. And the going becomes even more difficult as I crawl on all fours up the rain-slickened talus toward Apache Point. I reach its 6,000-foot crest at twilight.

Technically, Apache Point is the end of the run. But it's still 15 miles by compass bearing back to my support team at the Pasture Wash Ranger Station. I want to push on, but my knee's totally blown out from doing the uphill work for the last five days. I'm cold and wet, on the verge of hypothermia. (Once again that remarkable Goretex® has failed me.) And I'm down to half a cup of brown sugar. Worse, it's still raining, with no cover between me and Pasture Wash.

I decide to play the odds in my favor and bivouac in a cave just below Apache Point. By midnight, I'm shaking uncontrollably; the space blanket is not enough. So I spend the next couple of hours trying to get a fire started with wet tinder and flint and steel. At 1:55 a.m., the fire takes and I realize that this adventure may actually be coming to a successful end.

I doze on and off, periodically stoking the fire, knowing I can't let up until I've hobbled the last 15 miles with my cane.

I finish exhausted — and filled with respect for those who ran before me, for they had neither resupply team nor compass. Just fortitude. 

ECHANIS

Continued from page 46

The decision was made to eliminate him. The only question was how? Could the FSLN, or what appeared to be the FSLN, do it? This idea was discarded because Allegret had surrounded himself with a group of tough mercenaries [including Echanis and Nguyen] and could probably shoot his way out of an ambush. Poison was dismissed as being too obvious, and traceable by implication back to Tacho. Finally it was decided his aircraft must be sabotaged. He was flying a lot, making almost daily trips to operational areas. Given the accident rate and poor maintenance record of the Nicaraguan Air Force, it was the best possible way to arrange an accidental death.

SOF: How many people knew about the decision to kill Allegret?

VILLA: This was what you Americans call "close hold." Just three of us: Tacho, Genie and myself. I was only told when ordered to implement the plan. I was reluctant to do it since I felt the only honorable thing to do was arrest Allegret, or at least to shoot it out with him. Besides, I didn't have the technical skill to build a good bomb to destroy his aircraft in flight.

Genie was plenty pissed off when I turned the assignment down, and he took me off the case. He didn't tell Tacho, however, that I had refused.

Instead, he went to an old American soldier of fortune who resided in Nicaragua and had been a follower of the elder Gen. Anastasio Somoza, Tacho's father and the founder of the dynasty. This old warrior was a skilled mechanic. He fabricated a bomb for Genie that was tied to a barometer. This was installed in the wing of Allegret's aircraft. It was set to detonate when the aircraft flew above a certain altitude. This allowed for its installation when the aircraft was in the hangar for maintenance. It was placed, I understand, against the wing root.

SOF: Didn't you put yourself in considerable danger by refusing to carry out Genie's orders? You were privy to an executive-action order to terminate a high-ranking officer. Weren't you afraid you might be next for not obeying?

VILLA: No, my relations with Genie were very good. He protected me, and to tell the truth, we both had reservations about how much longer Somoza could hold onto the country. The population was turning against him, the United States government was selling him down the river, the property-owning class was

Continued on page 90

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Text and Photos
by Jay Lawless

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SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown, Managing Editor Bob Poos and Contributing Editor Ken Hackathorn attended the 1980 NRA convention at Bartle Exhibition Hall in Kansas City, Mo.



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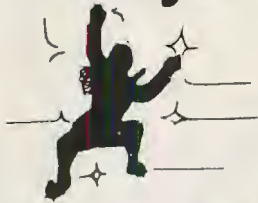


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ECHANIS

Continued from page 87

disavowing him and sources of military supply were giving signs of drying up.

We were, even then, evacuating our resources from the country. Amusingly enough, Somoza was ahead of us: everything that could be quietly stashed out of the country was going, even at that early date.

SOF: So the bomb was placed.

VILLA: Yes, and the damn thing didn't go off! Allegret made a flight and nothing happened. Then Allegret disappeared for a couple of days. We figured he had found the device, disarmed it and taken to the jungle. Much to our relief, he came in from a business trip to Bluefields where he had a shrimp business. The next day he went south and it was all over.

SOF: The funeral made a considerable number of headlines here in the USA.

VILLA: There were lots of crocodile tears. Tacho pinned medals on the coffin, the cadets did a slow march, there were a number of eulogies and then everybody went over to the club and got drunk.

Somoza lost the war anyway. Central America is on its way to becoming a Cuban province. Mexico will soon feel the rank breath of Soviet imperialism and the United States will become increasingly isolated.

How can the United States be so naive? Why can't this country support its friends?

SOF: We have no answer.



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Mulul Jalal Udi Den, military leader of the Hezbi-Islami of Afghanistan: "I think the Russians are cowards and cannot fight like men."

